

Supply vessel confirmed hit in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain-based marine salvage executives on Sunday confirmed an Iraqi air raid on an oilfield supply vessel "the Bertram" near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal two days ago. The vessel's accommodations section was damaged by a missile blast last Friday, but all its crewmen were reported safe, they said. The executive said the Bertram was attacked by the Iraqis at a point between Kharg and the Iranian Ardesht oilfield in the Gulf waters. An Iraqi military spokesman announced at the time that a "medium-size naval target" was hit near Kharg, as part of a year-old air and sea blockade on the island and nearby Iranian parts. The Bertram was the fourth confirmed casualty of the tanker war since Jan. 1. Ten other Iraqi attacks on commercial vessels have not been independently confirmed as yet.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Foundation
 جوردان تايمز مؤسسة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراية"

Wazir holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's top military aide discussed prospects of a Middle East settlement with an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official here Sunday. Ambassador Taha Al Farnawani, head of Egypt's Foreign Ministry's Palestine Department, told reporters he had briefed Khalil Al Wazir, deputy-commander of Palestinian forces, on his country's efforts to revive the Middle East peace process. Mr. Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, was the highest-ranking PLO official to visit Egypt since Mr. Arafat's controversial trip in December 1983. He later left for Tunisia, Egypt, the only Arab country to sign a treaty with Israel, has recently intensified its consultations with Jordan and the PLO on a common approach to peace in the region.

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House to convene on Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a session Wednesday. House Speaker Akel Al Fayed said Sunday. The session is expected to be a closed one as suggested by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat during the House's last session on Saturday. The House, during Wednesday's session, is expected to be briefed by Mr. Obeidat on security considerations that prompted the government to adopt an emergency legislation on issuance and renewal of passports. The Upper House (Senate) will hold a session Tuesday to discuss the 1985 draft budget.

Egypt stresses need for Mideast moves

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is continuing to lead both the United States and the Soviet Union of the need for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem. Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Sunday. In a foreign policy statement before parliament's advisory (Shura) council, he declared: "Egypt continues to reassert to the U.S., the need to find a just and peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue. Egypt's contacts with the Soviet Union... follow the same policy."

Six face sabotage charges in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Six Israeli Druze and a Lebanese were charged in a Haifa court on Sunday with membership in a sabotage ring that planned to carry out attacks in Israel. Israel Radio reported, the radio said, the seven were accused of plotting to smuggle a 55-kilogramme car-bomb across the Lebanese border into Israel and to set it off in a crowded shopping centre in Tel Aviv, Haifa or Nahariya. The car-bomb was discovered at the border post at Rosh Hanikha in August 1983, the radio said, but the court only permitted publication of the plot's existence now.

40 killed in Cuban air crash

HAVANA (R) — Aviation experts working Sunday under floodlights sifted through the wreckage of a Cuban airliner to try to find out why it crashed five minutes after takeoff from Havana Saturday, killing all 40 people on board. The Soviet-built Ilyushin 18 jet of Cubana Airlines, bound for the Nicaraguan capital of Managua, plunged in the ground and immediately burst into flames in flat farmland about 15 kilometres south of the capital, airport officials said. The crash site, in an isolated, sparsely populated area, was immediately sealed off.

2 women appointed to municipal council

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two ladies, Wafiq Salem Al Majali and Munah Issa Zureikat were appointed to Al Rabba Municipal Council, Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported Sunday. This is the first time the government appointed women to a municipal council in Jordan.

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Israelis begin first phase of pullout plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli troops Sunday started dismantling and moving equipment as the first stage of Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon got under way as a senior Israeli diplomat warned Syria against moving its areas vacated by Israel.

The Israeli government adopted a withdrawal plan a week ago. The first phase calls for withdrawal of Israeli troops from the western sector, including the densely populated Sidon area, on Feb. 18. The final pullback is to be completed by summer. However, an Israeli spokesman emphasised that Israeli troops would remain "fully equipped for operational purposes until the redeployment date ordered by the government."

Engineering and ordnance officers issued orders on Friday to start dismantling ammunition dumps, fuel depots, medical centres and storage facilities Sunday. Israel says it will sell to U.N. peacekeeping forces equipment and installations whose removal would be more expensive than replacement costs. Residents of villages above the port city of Sidon, near the current Israeli "front line" in Lebanon, told reporters that several trailers returned empty Sunday after carrying Israeli armoured vehicles towards the village of Kahouli, where the new Israeli redeployment line passes. Beirut Radio quoted witnesses in Sidon, itself — the first major city expected to be evacuated — as saying convoys of about 70 Israeli jeeps, trucks and armoured cars moved through the city at dawn on their way southward.

U.N. Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart conveyed to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Lebanon's agreement to resume on Tuesday talks on deploying U.N. troops in the evacuated areas. Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami said on Saturday that Beirut was willing to discuss "the pullout programme and dates" in the talks at U.N. headquarters on

the Mediterranean coast. Mr. Urquhart said the decision to reconvene the talks was "a hopeful sign". Israel broke them off a week ago after the two sides were unable to reach agreement in 12 sessions on the roles of U.N. troops, the Lebanese army and a pro-Israeli militia. Israel's ambassador to the U.N., Binyamin Netanyahu, told a news conference that Israel would not tolerate Syria's trying to take advantage of the Israeli pullback to improve its positions in eastern Lebanon. He said Syria was aware that movement of Syrian troops into areas evacuated by Israel in Lebanon "would not be acceptable by us."

Mr. Netanyahu, speaking at a news conference, refused to say whether Israel had issued explicit warnings to Syria to stay within its current lines in eastern Lebanon after Israeli withdrawals. But he added, "I think the Syrians are well aware that certain movements on their part would not be acceptable to us." Mr. Netanyahu, who returned to Israel to report on the recently concluded U.N. General Assembly session, said Israel also would not tolerate Syrian assistance to Palestinian commandos to mount attacks against Israel. Israeli officials have said they hope the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Lebanese army would fill the vacuum left by the retreating Israeli troops.

Any change in the size or deployment are of the U.N. peacekeepers must have the approval of the Security Council. That would require the acquiescence of the Soviet Union, which as a permanent member of the council

has veto power. Mr. Netanyahu said that as of this week the Soviets had not announced a position on broadening UNIFIL's mandate, which expires in April, and that they apparently would coordinate their position with Syria.

The ambassador contended UNIFIL forces in South Lebanon would be a "hindrance" to any Syrian efforts to move troops into position north of Israel, thereby "creating a crescent around Israel." He said Syria was trying to build its forces to the point where it could conduct a war against Israel on its own, but "not today. I don't think they are ready to risk it." The ceasefire line between Syria and Israel in the Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in 1973, has been quiet since 1974. But Mr. Netanyahu said the same might not apply in Lebanon. He said it would be "strategically much more advantageous to Syria for its forces if they can spread across our northern border" as far as the Mediterranean coast, which would give Syria "a shortcut to the heartland of Israel."

He said so far Syria has tried "cautiously" in Lebanon and has not tried to move its forces beyond the lines it held two years ago. He said this was "a result of their understanding of what is tolerable and what is not." The ambassador also said Arab states no longer have the power to exert political pressure on Western industrial nations by threatening to embargo oil exports. "The Arab oil decade is over. Countries are no longer afraid of oil embargoes," Mr. Netanyahu said. Israel's position at the U.N. and other international bodies has improved in the past two years, he said, because of what he termed "the political decline of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Mr. Netanyahu contended that the PLO is viewed at the U.N. as a "split organisation with scattered forces and a demoralised leadership."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan talks to members of the University of Jordan Club Sunday.

Hassan urges government-citizen dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday stressed the need for holding "constructive and responsible dialogue" between government and citizens with the purpose of wisely handling problems affecting all aspects of life in Jordan.

Referring to democracy and the return to parliamentary life in Jordan, Prince Hassan said that parliament is needed to help boost development and progress in various sectors.

"We should bridge the gap between the decision-makers and the society and should try to isolate economic issues from politics and maintain independence for the intellectuals and their work and thinking," he said. Prince Hassan said that a comprehensive concept of the educational process in Jordan for the coming 15 years should be outlined and should include Jordanian students studying abroad.

Qurma region yields more oil

AMMAN (J.T.) — Oil flowed from the third well in quantities far exceeding those that gushed out from the first and second wells at Qurma, near Azraq, as a result of intensified drilling in the area, according to the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper. It said that oil appeared after drilling to a depth of 3,220 metres and it indicates that the well contains commercial quantities of crude oil. Also, according to the paper, the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Ministry of Energy have started drilling the fourth and the fifth wells. The first and second wells provide 2,000 barrels of oil daily after months of drilling in the Qurma region.

Arab committee meets to discuss Gulf war

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Seven Arab foreign ministers or senior officials met here Sunday to discuss a new working plan aimed at ending the 52-month-old Iran-Iraq war. Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi said on arrival here that the delegates would discuss the plan, aimed at "pushing forward international efforts towards ending the war and achieving peace within the framework of international legitimacy." He gave no details of the plan. The other six are the foreign ministers of Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, North Yemen and Saudi Arabia and Tunisia's representative at the Arab League. The seven-man committee, set up at an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers here last March, has made trips to European and Asian countries that have economies with Tehran to try to persuade them to halt arms sales to Iran.

Palestinian league urges world pressure to better conditions in Israeli jails

By Leila G. Deeb
 Reuter

AMMAN — A group working on behalf of Palestinians jailed by Israel Sunday urged world pressure to get them better conditions and to have Israel observe the Geneva Conventions on their treatment. The Defence League of Prisoners of War and Detainees in Israeli Prisons, a Palestinian group set up last June, produced two ex-prisoners at a press conference here who described overcrowded conditions and bad treatment at Israel's Jumeil prison near the occupied West Bank city of Nablus. One of them, Nabil Jamhiyeh, supporting himself with a walking stick, said he had a bullet and pieces of shrapnel still lodged in his back following an operation and inadequate treatment consisting mainly of pain-killing tablets. A league spokesman, who would not give his name, said that one group of 122 Palestinians due for release from a camp at Ansar, in Lebanon, in a prisoner exchange deal in November 1983 were taken instead to jails in Israel.

"We need help to get states, organisations and individuals throughout the world to put pressure on Israel to apply the Geneva Conventions, particularly those involving the treatment of civilians and prisoners of war," he told the press.

Mr. Jamhiyeh and the other man introduced as an ex-prisoner, Mohammad Abu Laban, said they were released after 15 years spent in various Israeli jails which still held some 3,400 Palestinians, at least 80 of them women. They said the Jumeil prison, built as a hospital, now had 850 prisoners but could not properly accommodate more than 500 and overcrowding had caused strikes and protests there since last September. Prisoners were allowed only two hours in fresh air out of 24, but the sloping yard they walked in was just a "rain-water pool," they said.

Cells measuring three by four metres had to hold 12 prisoners, forced to eat on the floor in shifts and share a cold water shower which ran only one hour each day. The two men, arrested separately in the late 1960s, accused Israeli prison and hospital staff of deliberately trying to kill them by pulling out glucose drips and by torture. Mr. Jamhiyeh said that at the Ramleh prison hospital a doctor poured petrol on his wounds then offered him a cigarette and matches.

Special parking lots, playgrounds and other facilities should be provided in crowded areas and parking areas should be built near schools, hospitals, cinemas and other places to help reduce accidents, the recommendations said. To help report accidents and facilitate the arrival of ambulances and police cars, the recommendations called for establishing special control rooms to ensure speedy contacts with the concerned parties and called for the use of helicopters to help carry the injured to hospitals or rush paramedics and doctors to the scene of accident.

The recommendations called on accident should be issued copies of the police report and that only those who prove to have had the intention of causing the accident on purpose should be referred to court and that insurance companies should be forced by law to abide by the provisions contained in the insurance policies, and make payments on the strength of the traffic police report.

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(Continued on page 2)

Reagan sworn in for second term in office

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ronald Wilson Reagan, standing at the foot of a White House staircase, swore the presidential oath of office for a second term Sunday before 96 guests and a national television audience. Outside, icy winds foretold the rigors of Monday's outdoor ceremony when Mr. Reagan renews his swearing-in with public pomp.

It was the nation's 50th presidential oath-taking, and only the fifth time that the inauguration parade down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House. However, chilling temperatures threatened to hold low the size of the crowds.

Chief Justice Warren Burger administered the presidential oath, his fifth such undertaking. "The president kissed the first lady, Nancy Reagan, and hugged her. Wearing a dress her trademark colour, red, Mrs. Reagan clutched a Bible throughout the brief ceremony."

Retired Justice Potter Stewart returned from New Hampshire to administer the oath to Mr. Bush. Mr. Bush shook Mr. Stewart's hand, kissed Mrs. Bush and stepped aside for Mr. Reagan. Without an overcoat, the president stepped outside the White House for a moment and heard congratulations and questions from several reporters.

Lebanon seeks U.N. help to free Ansar detainees

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon has asked the United Nations to help free detainees held in the Israeli prison camp of Ansar in occupied South Lebanon. Prime Minister Rashid Karami told reporters in his home town of Tripoli that he had asked U.N. Under-Secretary-General Brian Urquhart Saturday to try to persuade Israel to release the prisoners.

According to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), there are just over 1,000 detainees at the hilltop camp. They live in tents surrounded by barbed wire and watchtowers. Mr. Karami said Ansar would be evacuated in the first phase of Israel's three-stage withdrawal plan announced a week ago. An Israeli army spokesman said last week, however, that Ansar would remain under Israeli control after the first pullout.

Mr. Karami said the timing of the Israeli pullout should be clarified and agreed upon. "We are going to Naqoura next Tuesday to make this officially agreed upon and coordinated," he said. Israel suspended the talks on Jan. 7 after 12 sessions following disputes over the roles of U.N. peacekeeping forces, the Lebanon

army and a pro-Israeli militia in policing the south after Israeli troops leave. Mr. Karami said Israel's withdrawal plan was "a victory for Lebanon," but conceded that little else was going well for his "national unity" cabinet.

"We have been calling for months for security plans and despite all agreements on them we notice their implementation is blocked," the prime minister said. On Jan. 12, Lebanon sent troops down the coast road from Beirut to within two kilometres of Israel's Awali River "front line" in preparation for an army takeover of the south. But the failure of rival militias to withdraw from the adjacent Kharrub region has kept the road closed to civilian traffic and delayed progress on plans to deploy the army on the coast road north of Beirut and the Beirut-Damascus highway.

Kyprianou, Denktash try to break deadlock in talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash Sunday held a fourth day of talks with the U.N. secretary general amid fears of failure in their efforts to agree on a plan to reunify the island. Mr. Denktash told reporters that if the current bid collapsed, any future talks would "not be a

second round but a new round for renegotiating everything from square one." At issue is the status of a plan for a new federal system with separate provinces for the long-stranded Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities, with a central government led by a Greek Cypriot president and Turkish Cypriot vice-president.

In Beirut itself, a spate of bomb attacks has terrorised residents and helped push the Lebanese pound to record lows. Closing Saturday at 10.32 to the dollar, the pound lost 11.2 per cent of its value last week and has lost 15.8 per cent so far this year.

France recalls military attaché from India amid major espionage scandal

NEW DELHI (R) — France recalled its deputy military attaché to India Sunday after a press report that a second French diplomat had been deported after the break up of a major spy ring in the country. Newspapers said an espionage ring of at least 12 senior civil servants and businessmen sold India's most sensitive secrets, including defence arrangements with the Soviet Union, its main weapons supplier, for as little as a bottle of whisky.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the roundup of suspects, which started last Thursday, was still in progress and several civil servants had gone into hiding. The news agency said a number of diplomats also were under surveillance. Orders were issued at international airports to thoroughly screen all departing passengers, including foreigners. France said it was recalling its deputy military attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Alain Bolley, an aviation expert based in New

Delhi for four years, for consultations.

The announcement by the French External Relations Ministry was made after India's largest selling newspaper, the Indian Express, reported that a French diplomat was deported Saturday. The French embassy and the Indian External Affairs Ministry refused to comment on the report or say if a diplomat other than Col. Bolley had left the country. The French statement made no mention of a deportation.

PTI said Col. Bolley, who told Reuters he learned of his recall from reporters, was involved in negotiations to supply India with 40 of the latest French Mirage 2000 jet fighters. But Western diplomats said the Soviet Union's decision to sell India its advanced MiG-29 fighter dashed French hopes of a bigger Mirage order. PTI said one of the key files missing from Prime Minister Rajiv

Gandhi's office was a document on India's effort "to acquire a highly sophisticated weapons system." It gave no other details.

India has embarked on a military modernisation programme costing billions of dollars, setting off intense competition between the Soviet Union and other arms manufacturers including France. In a speech to a meeting of religious leaders Sunday, President Zail Singh said India was concerned by a threat to its integrity from foreign forces.

"I am asking these foreign forces not to interfere in the internal affairs of this ancient country and also refrain themselves from carrying out their destabilisation designs," he said. "We do not want to dominate anyone but at the same time we do not want to be dominated."

He made no reference to the spy scandal which has rocked Mr. Gandhi's three-week-old administration.

Oman expresses fears of sabotage in Hormuz Strait

CAIRO (R) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman said in an interview published Sunday that he feared acts of sabotage in the Strait of Hormuz and that Iran would only act to close the strategic waterway at the mouth of the Gulf in desperation.

Sultan Qaboos told Cairo's semi-official daily Al-Ahram in an interview that Iran, at war with neighbouring Iraq since 1980, would not attempt to close the strait unless it became desperate because of a halt in its oil exports through the Gulf.

"Then, there remains the basic danger which is an attempt by some saboteurs to carry out this," Sultan Qaboos said, without identifying the saboteurs.

(Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the strait, through which one sixth of the non-Communist world's oil supplies passes. If Iraq prevents its oil exports from leaving the Gulf.

Sultan Qaboos, whose country is among Washington's closest Arab allies, said Oman would react to sabotage in the strait in coordination with its five allies in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"If we cannot do anything in the GCC, then we must look into enlisting the help of friends... that, of course, depends on what we shall face," he said without elaboration.

The GCC, of which Oman is a member, was set up in 1981 to

and then agree with the PLO on the form of relationship they want to exist between them. "A federation, a confederation, an independent Palestinian state of whatever."

"A clear and unified agreement (between Jordan and the PLO) is the only thing that can persuade the United States to take a serious move for solving the problem," Sultan Qaboos said.

"If there was no unified Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, then we have no right to ask America to find magic solutions for our problems," the Sultan added.

He also said that it would be difficult for U.S. President Ronald Reagan to adopt a more positive stand concerning the Middle East problem while the Arabs were divided.

Sultan Qaboos advised the Jordanians and the Palestinians not to wait for approval from the governments of the divided Arab World.

"If we waited such unanimous approval, then I think we would lose what remained from our territories for good."

Egypt, S.Korea discuss Mideast

CAIRO (R) — The foreign ministers of Egypt and North Korea held talks Sunday on ways to boost bilateral ties and on the Middle East, officials said.

They said Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid and his North Korean counterpart Kim Yong-Nam also discussed the Gulf war, prospects for the reunification of North and South Korea and the Non-Aligned Movement of which both countries are members.

Saudi Arabia, Jordan end radio, TV talks

AMMAN (Peira) — Saudi Arabian-Jordanian talks on coordinating radio waves and television channels ended in Riyadh Saturday evening.

Director General of Radio Jordan Nasouh Al Majali who led the Jordanian team to the talks said at the end of the meetings that the talks aimed at ensuring non-interference between various wavelengths and also cooperation in exchanging programmes.

A Saudi Arabian technical team is expected to visit Jordan this week to take part in a survey conducted by the Jordanian engineers on radio and television channels in use over Saudi Arabia and Jordan.



9m Ethiopians are now famine victims

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam says 9 million of his countrymen are in a "horrifying condition" due to famine, raising the number of officially estimated drought victims by 1.25 million since early December.

Col. Mengistu made the disclosure Friday at a conference of ruling Marxist Party cadres involved in the resettlement of more than 1 million people from northern famine-stricken areas of the Horn of Africa country. His 27-minute speech was broadcast by the state radio and a monitoring report of it was made available to the Associated Press late Saturday.

"The lives of not less than 9 million of our compatriots are in a horrifying condition," said Col. Mengistu, who blamed the increase from 7.75 million on the small volume of rain in November

and its "lopsided distribution" due to changing weather patterns.

He acknowledged that emergency relief shipments of food, medicine and clothing were reaching only 5 million of the 9 million enduring drought-related shortages. Foreign voluntary agency officials have put the figure even lower, citing the difficult terrain, limited transport and rebel control of some of the worst hit areas of the Tigre and Eritrea regions.

The 44-year-old lieutenant colonel, who has been in undisputed power since 1977, asserted that the only way to overcome the current disaster was by resettling large numbers of people to fertile areas with ample water from regions hit by prolonged drought, where fields have been degraded due to erosion.

His controversial resettlement scheme, which envisages shifting 1.5 million people by December 1985, has met with a cool reception so far from many Western donor nations whose support is seen as being necessary to make the programme a success.

Apparently with those donors in mind, Col. Mengistu stressed that the "principal objective of the resettlement programme is the saving of lives."

Some Western diplomats in Ethiopia question the degree of the participants' free choice, speculating that some might be coerced in order to deprive secessionist rebels of a population base.

Others see the need to relocate large numbers to land that can support them, but believe the Mengistu government is moving too quickly without providing adequate preparation at the new sites.

Aden, Sana'a agree to boost cooperation

ADEN (R) — North and South Yemen have agreed to boost cooperation to exploit their natural resources. South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad said Sunday.

He told reporters agreement was reached in talks with North Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh, who arrived here unexpectedly Saturday night.

Mr. Mohammad did not elaborate. Last month, North Yemen said it had struck oil in commercial quantities in the Alef Field close to its border with Marxist South Yemen.

Last year, the two countries agreed to start work on a \$40-million project to carry out seismic and topographical studies in the two Red Sea states. The project is due to start this month.

The official Aden News Agency reported Sunday that the two leaders had left for the North Yemeni town of Ta'iz for talks on speeding

up plans to merge institutions in the two countries.

Meanwhile South Yemeni and Omani officials met in Muscat Sunday for talks aimed at settling a dispute over their border. Omani government officials said.

Oman and South Yemen agreed in 1982 to end more than a decade of hostility but still have not fixed much of their joint boundary, which passes from the Indian Ocean inland through sparsely populated, rocky hills.

South Yemen supported an insurrection which began in 1964 in Oman's Dhofar province, bordering on South Yemen.

Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates mediated the 1982 agreement and sent representatives to Sunday's negotiations. Oman Radio said it was the first time the neighbouring countries had agreed to meet in one of their capitals, previous meetings having been held in neutral territory.

Safety measures outlined

(Continued from page 1)

the public and the authorities to support the work and activities of all organisations concerned with the prevention of road accidents. They said that support and help will enable these organisations to hold seminars and conferences on the prevention of road accidents. The recommendations called for the authorities to install telephones along roads for emergency calls, and to support the

work and programmes of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents.

The recommendations called for minimising the application of tribal customs following the occurrence of accidents so that motorists will not take advantage of the tolerance in such tribal customs and allow accidents to increase on the roads. They also called for public appreciation for those who report accidents or help carry injured people to hospital.

Rebels move southward as fighting intensifies in south Sudan

By Philip Shehadi
Reuter

JUBA, Sudan — Rebels of Sudan's Southern Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) are moving south toward this key provincial capital as their fight against the government of President Jaafar Numeiri intensifies with no political solution in sight.

The rebels control much of the southern Sudanese countryside, according to foreign aid sources here, although they hold no major towns or cities. Their move into Equatoria province, which straddles the Sudanese border with the Central African Republic of Ethiopia, is a new development worrying officials here and in Khartoum.

Heavy fighting has been reported in the province over the past two weeks and two days ago the Sudanese News Agency said two unidentified planes attacked army positions near Lalot, 200 kilometres east of Juba.

It was the first time Sudan says rebels are backed by Libya and Ethiopia were reported to have enjoyed air cover in their two-year-old bush war. Their hit-and-run attacks on convoys and garrisons have caused heavy army casualties, according to diplomatic

sources.

Equatoria's Deputy Governor Francis Wajo said the rebels began trickling in last month, settling at Terebaka, 80 kilometres north of Juba and at Lalot.

Juba residents say the army is digging trenches in the scrubby dry land north and east of the city. Tight security is evident at bridges and the airport, the city's last remaining link with the north after fighting cut roads and Nile steamer traffic last fall.

Equatoria province saw the worst fighting in the 17-year-old civil war that opposed the largely Christian, African south and the Arab, Islamic north from 1955 to 1972.

But in the current conflict the rebels' advance last month was their first into Equatoria, whose tribes have been cool toward the movement since it began in 1983.

Led by an American-educated Ph.D., ex-Colonel John Garang, the SPLA drew nearly all its 10,000-odd fighters from the huge Dinka tribe in the Upper Nile and Bahar Al Ghazal provinces north of Equatoria. The Dinka form almost two million of the south's six million inhabitants.

Speaker of the Equatoria Assembly Pacifico Lado Lolik said that while the Dinka were "almost

without exception supporting Garang... this region (Equatoria) doesn't get involved in rebelling against Numeiri."

The SPLA's avowed aim, in contrast to that of secessionist southern rebels of the Anyanya Movement during the civil war, is to topple Mr. Numeiri and "liberate" all of Sudan.

Foreign observers here say local resentment against the Dinka, who dominated the south's regional government from 1972 to 1983, may be a problem for the SPLA in Equatoria.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The Dinkas were widely accused of corruption and nepotism when they ran the south, which Mr. Numeiri has since divided into three separate provinces. Dinkas saw the division as a plot to weaken the south while Equatorians generally support it.

Southerners are united in their hostility to Sharia (Islamic Law), which Mr. Numeiri introduced in September 1983, even though it has not yet been applied here.

Lado Lolik said the Equatoria Assembly had written to Mr. Numeiri to say Sharia would not be accepted in the south. "The

president has not written back one word," he added.

Sudanese Vice-President Joseph Lagu, himself a southerner, told Reuters in a recent interview that Sharia had "brought the southerners closer together."

Discontent has been simmering for years over the slow pace of development in the south. Poverty, unemployment, education and infrastructure are officially acknowledged to be worse than in the north.

The discovery of oil in Upper Nile province in the late 1970s was viewed as a potential boon to the region, until the government announced plans to pipe the oil north and export it.

In November, Mr. Numeiri called on the SPLA and smaller southern rebel groups to negotiate. Only one small group, the secessionist Anyanya 2 Movement led by William Abdulla Chol, appears to have actually done so.

Western diplomats in Khartoum said Mr. Chol began talking when the SPLA surrounded his 500-odd supporters at Wat in the Upper Nile province and effectively deprived them of operational capability. No results of the talks were announced.

A more intriguing attempt at reaching a settlement took place last month through the intervention of British executive "Tiny" Rowland and Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi. According to SPLA radio, they brought proposals from Mr. Numeiri to the rebels offering Garang the post of vice-president and the appointment of six southern ministers.

The radio said the offer was rejected. Both businessmen have extensive interests in Sudan and would benefit from a return to peace in the south.

Diplomats say the SPLA is more interested in talking to Mr. Numeiri's northern opponents in the hope of expanding its base.

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21:40 Varieties
23:00 News in Arabic
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18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:15 Sport
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 Tomorrow's Programmes
20:30 Maggie Briggs
21:00 Health Beat
21:10 Mansfield Park
21:30 News in English
23:10 The Yellow Rose
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW	
07:00 Light Music
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:00 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:03 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Over a Cup of Tea
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Classical Show Case
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Sports Round-up
18:30 Arabian Nights
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
19:50 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:55 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE	
639, 720, 1413 KHz	
06:00	Newsdesk 06:30 Puckoon 06:45
Letter from London 06:55 Reflections	
07:00	World News 07:30 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 07:50 Letterbox	
07:45	Recording of the Week 08:00
Newsdesk 08:30 Round-up 09:00	
09:00	World News 09:30 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 09:50 Sarah and Com-	
09:40	pany 10:00 World News 10:00
Reflections 10:15 The High-liner 10:30	
10:30	Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:00
British Pias Review 11:15 Waveguide	
11:25	Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead
11:45 Peaches Choice 12:00	
12:00	Summary 12:15 Science in Action 12:30
Music Now 13:00 World News 13:00	
13:00	News About Britain 13:15 The Art of
Gerald Moore 13:30 Album Time 14:00	
14:00	Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Quote, Unquote
14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World	
15:00	News 15:00 Twenty-Four Hours: News
Summary 15:30 Tippet At 10 16:00	
16:00	Outlook 16:45 Talk 17:00 Radio News-
desk 17:15 Feature 17:45 The Art of	
17:45	Gerald Moore 18:00 World News 18:00
Commentary 18:15 Putting Politics in its	
18:15	Place 18:30 Sweet Sound Music 18:45 The
World Today 19:00 World News 19:00	
19:00	Book Choice 19:15 Jazz Score 19:45
Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30	
20:30	Wives And Daughters 21:00 Outlook
21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Peaches	
21:45	Choice 22:00 World News 22:00
Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary	
22:30	Sports International 23:00 Net-
work UK 23:15 Short Takes Rock Salad	
23:30	Rock Salad 24:00 World News: The
World Today 00:20 Book Choice	
00:30	Financial News 06:00 Reflections
06:45 Sports Round-up 01:15 Sweet	
01:30	Soul Music 01:30 Quote, Unquote
VOICE OF AMERICA	
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 4565, 11740, 11925 and 12510 KHz.	
06:00	VOA Morning: News, Informal
Presentation of Popular Music with Fea-	
06:30	ture Reports, Interviews, Answers to
Listeners' Questions, Science Digest,	
06:55	Sports News at 30 minutes past the
hour. 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30	
17:30	Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus
18:30 Special English News and Fea-	
18:55	tures 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30
Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus	
20:30	Special English News and Fea-
tures 21:00 Newsline 21:30	
21:30	Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial
22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA	
23:00	World Report

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITION	
* An exhibition of paintings on silk by artist Izzat Shukri at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 27).	
PLAY	
* A local play (The Choice) at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre tel. 661026/7	
American Centre 44371	
American Centre Library 41520	
British Council 36147-5	
French Cultural Centre 37009	
Goethe Institute 1993	
Soviet Cultural Centre 44303	
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049	
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777	
Haya Arts Centre 667186	
Hussein Youth City 667181	
Y.W.C.A. 664251	
Amman Municipal Library 36111	
University of Jordan Library 443555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and com- mones over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 13th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col- lection of paintings, ceramics, and scul- pture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munazzah, Jabal Luwbiyah. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Maryam's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dat- ing from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Hol- iday Inn. 1:30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.	
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Elghil Circle. Tel. N15261.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwbiyah, 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Red- eemer) Jabal Amman, 25343. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751. Amman International Church (Inter- denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeissan, 816534.	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:57	..... Fajr
06:23	..... Sunrise
11:50	..... Dhuhur
14:55	..... Asr
17:18	..... Maghrib
18:44	..... Isha

AMMAN AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Aha in- formation department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where a should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
09:30	..... Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	..... Kuwait (RJ)
09:55	..... Cairo (RJ)
09:55	..... Muscat, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20	..... Beirut (RJ)
10:30	..... Cairo (MS)
10:50	..... Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
11:40	..... Kuwait (KU)
15:10	..... Jeddah, Medina (SV)
16:35	..... Baghdad, Istanbul (RJ)
18:30	..... Bangkok (RJ)
18:30	..... Cairo (RJ)
18:30	..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
22:30	..... Baghdad (RJ)
00:45	..... Cairo (RJ)
01:10	..... Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
05:45	..... Cairo (RJ)
07:00	..... Beirut (RJ)
07:15	..... Amman (RJ)
08:45	..... Beirut (RJ)
11:00	..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:30	..... Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
14:30	..... Cairo (RJ)
14:40	..... Kuwait (RJ)
16:40	..... Jeddah, Medina (SV)
17:25	..... Istanbul, Baghdad (RJ)
19:30	..... Kuwait (RJ)
19:40	..... Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
19:40	..... Dhahran (RJ)
19:40	..... Doha, Muscat (RJ)
20:00	..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:15	..... Jeddah (RJ)
20:15	..... Dubai (RJ)
20:45	..... Cairo (RJ)
21:10	..... Baghdad (RJ)
23:20	..... Amman (RJ)
23:30	..... Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (IA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC	
Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:	
— Rubia	
— Kota Wira	
— Blue Nile	
— Ville Domergue	
— Jala Gwino	
— Triglav	
— Kapitan Kamsinski	
Amn Kavar and Sons Company. Tel: 22324 (six lines) 1 your service.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy with medium and high clouds and dusty conditions will prevail in some areas. Southeasterly moderate winds will be changing to sou- theasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.	
Low/high temperature in deg.C	
Amman	11/5
Aqaba	12/1
Oesert	3/16
Jordan Valley	10/20
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 21. Humidity per- centage: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.	
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Local sell/buy rates in J.S.	
Belgian franc	63.9/ 64.3
Dutch guilder	11.7/ 11.4
Egyptian pound	306.6/ 310.6
French franc	41.9/ 42.3
Iraqi dinar	343.6/ 350
Italian lire (per 100)	20.8/ 21
Japanese yen (per 100)	160.9/ 160.9
Kuwaiti dinar	133.1/ 133.6
Lebanese lira	40.2/ 41.1
Omani rial	117.0/ 117.6
Qatari riyal	11.5/ 12.1
Saudi riyal	11.4/ 11.7
Swedish crown	44.6/ 44.9
Swiss franc	152.6/ 153.6
Syrian lira	37/ 38
U.A.E. dirham	110.6/ 111.4
U.K. sterling pound	458.3/ 461.1
U.S. dollar	306.5/ 308.1
W. German mark	128.5/ 129.3

EMERGENCIES	
Ambulance	193, 775111
Fire dept.	22000-3
Blood bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	66111
Fire headquarters	22000-3
Police rescue	192, 31111, 37777
Police headquarters	39141
Traffic police	56390-1
Electric Power Co.	36381-2
Municipal water service	77125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 53333
TAXIS:	
Vinella Taxi	44584
Muhayar taxi	44574
Shmeissan taxi	66524
Asm taxi	844503
Jordan taxi	230101
Amman taxi	51424
HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	44251-4
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	42441
Jabal Amman Maternity	42362
Malhas, J. Amman	36140
Al-Mushter Hospital	664171-4
Shmeissan Hospital	664131
University Hospital	667158
Oar Al-Shita, J. Hussein	667158
Al-Mushter Hospital	667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali	665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali	666164
Italian, Al-Muhajir	771011-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111
Army, Maika	91611
NIGHT DUTY	
Telephone: Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 11 Overseas calls 17 Cable or telegram 17 Repair service 11	
AMMAN: Os. Tayseer Al Hudhail 671246 Dr. Nabih Hanawi 773406	

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in J.S. per kg.	
Apple (unripe red)	250/ 200
Apple (golden)	250/ 200
Apple (starkent)	250/ 200
Banana	280/ 240
Banana (Mukammal)	240/ 210
Beans	270/ 230
Broad beans	620/ 540
Cabbage	100/ 70
Chestnut	640/ 570
Carrot (yellow)	110/ 80
Carrot (black)	100/ 70
Cauliflower	100/ 70
Cucumber (large)	200/ 160
Cucumber (small)	340/ 280
Eggplant (large)	110/ 80
Eggplant (small)	150/ 120
Garlic	150/ 120
Grapefruit	130/ 100
Lemon	120/ 90
Leucite (per one)	130/ 100
Mallow	280/ 220
Marrow (large)	200/ 160
Marrow (small)	130/ 90
Onion (green)	150/ 120
Onions (Abu Surrat)	250/ 200
Parsley (Shmeissan)	200/ 160
Parsley	90/ 60
Pears (American)	540/ 480
Pepper (local)	360/ 300
Pepper (hot green)	300/ 250
Pistachios (local)	260/ 220
Radishes	90/ 60
Sprach	90/ 60
Tomatoes	120/ 90
Turnip	130/ 100

Irbid industrial estate tender to be floated soon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Estates Corporation (IEC) is planning to float a tender next month for carrying out the Irbid industrial estate project, according to the IEC director general, Dr. Fayed Al Suheimat, who said that the final designs and the tender documents will be ready during April.

Dr. Suheimat said that the implementation of the project is within the corporation's goals aiming at distributing Jordanian industries throughout the various areas of the Kingdom. The Irbid industrial estate project will be built near the Yarmouk University permanent site on an area of 411 dunums and will be financed from the corporation's sources in addition to a loan from the Saudi Fund for Development.

The project comprises buildings for the head offices, a vocational training centre, health clinics, offices for banks, police and civil defence centres, a petrol station, commercial centre and an exhibition for industrial projects.

Basic services such as water, electricity, telephones, telexes, sewerage and a waste water treatment plant will also be provided to the project. Dr. Suheimat added that a housing project for employees will be set up on an area near to the project, which is expected to be fully completed before the end of 1987.



ALIA OPENS EXHIBITION: Her Highness Princess Alia Sunday opens at the Royal Cultural Centre an exhibition of paintings on silk by artist Khal Shukri (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE police college chief due today

AMMAN (Petra) — Director general of the police college in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Colonel Sager Ghabbash, is due here Monday on a several day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with the Public Security Department Director Lieutenant General Diab Youssef. Col. Ghabbash will visit a number of police institutions and training centres in the country.

WHO team tours health centres

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-man delegation from World Health Organisation (WHO) Sunday visited several medical centres in Amman and the suburbs. The team was briefed on the various medical services offered to the public by the centres.

SSC offers hotel discount

WADI MUSA (Petra) — A discount of up to 50 per cent will be made available to Jordanians at the Amra and Petra Forum hotels according to sources from the Tourist Investment department at the Social Security Corporation which owns the two hotels. This was announced Sunday during a tour to Petra organised by the SSC administration for Jordanian journalists. This is part of a campaign by the department to promote domestic tourism.

Students tour Egyptian drug factories

AMMAN (Petra) — Thirty students from the University of Jordan's Faculty of Pharmacy are currently on a training trip to Egypt accompanied by faculty staff members. The students are visiting a number of drug factories in both Jordan and Egypt as part of their training programme.

Ministry staff tour tawjihi exam halls

AMMAN (J.T.) — Officials from the Ministry of Education Sunday toured halls in which tawjihi students are taking the first term exam. According to the ministry's director of examinations, Dr. Ahmad Al Bashairah, in Amman region the students are taking the exams in 34 centres provided with all conveniences such as heating and lighting. These centres, he said, are located in Amman, Jubbah, and Sweileh.

A total of 45,700 students are taking the tawjihi exams which began Saturday in the East Bank and will continue until next Sunday, according to Dr. Bashairah. Marking of the papers will begin on Monday Jan. 28, he said.

Tawjihi students are sitting for the literary, scientific, commercial, industrial, agricultural, hotel, nursing and postal streams. Of these students, he said, a total of 12,098 are taking the exam following private studies.

Italy to loan \$40m for thermal station turbines

AMMAN (Petra) — Italy will give Jordan a \$40 million loan to help finance the purchase of materials and services needed for the installation of turbines in the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, according to an agreement signed by the two sides in Amman Sunday.

The project consists of two thermal generating units each of 130 megawatts and provides for laying a 400 kilovolt-line to link Aqaba with the main transformer station south of Amman.

The project, expected to be operational by 1986, will help provide more power in view of the increasing demand for electricity for development projects and industry, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Planning. He said that several Arab funds, the World Bank, the West German Development Bank as well as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries fund have contributed to the project. Italy had earlier provided a \$20 million loan for the same project, the spokesman added.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and Italy's Ambassador to Jordan Marquis Fabrizio Rossi Longhi.

49 northern villages receive electricity during last year

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 49 villages in Irbid Governorate were provided with electricity during 1984. Out of this number, 32 were financed by a Soviet loan, according to Irbid Electricity Company sources.

The sources added that 82 more villages will be electrified this year, to also be financed by foreign loans. The sources said that the company is planning to install a computer system.

Public warned not to bathe in open water

Ministry discovers 13 more bilharzia cases

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry Sunday announced the discovery of 13 more cases of bilharzia in Jordan. Dr. Suleiman Qub'ain, director of basic health welfare at the Health Ministry, said that the new cases are classified as urinary tract bilharzia and that they have all been found in Karak Governorate.

The source of the infection, he said, was Al Hasa stream, near Al Babaita springs, where many people are in the habit of bathing from time to time. Health Ministry teams have also discovered bilharzia snails in the water and these cause the urinary tract bilharzia disease, he said. Five other cases were discovered in Jordan a week ago.

According to Dr. Qub'ain, bilharzia is a parasitic disease that can live in the human body and that the water in which the snails live is the direct source for infection.

He said that the main source of infection is through the skin and people contract the disease by swimming in the water, walking or working in it barefoot. According to Dr. Qub'ain, the disease affects the human body after the snails have settled in the veins or the urinary tract. He said that the symptoms of bilharzia infected persons include a pain in the pelvis and irritation when urinating and sometimes blood in urine. Dr. Qub'ain said that bilharzia is endemic in a number of neighbouring Arab countries and has come to Jordan through migrating birds and infected non-Jordanian labourers employed in the Kingdom.

Medical tests

The Health Ministry's teams conduct tests on all people arriving in Jordan from countries with the disease. Also, if they work in the water areas of the Jordan Valley, they have to undergo several other tests on different occasions to determine whether the disease was contracted in Jordan. Dr. Qub'ain said. He said that once sick people have been identified, they receive free treatment in the form of pills, taken only once.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Health is continually making tests on water samples from the Jordan Valley, springs and rivers to determine if they contain any bilharzia snails and if they are found, they are immediately eliminated. Dr. Qub'ain said. He added that a campaign for the elimination of bilharzia snails is underway in 22 water sites in Jordan.

Dr. Qub'ain called on all citizens to refrain from bathing in the Hasa waters and all other water sites. He also suggested that the public do not place their hands or feet in the water or wash or clean them in it because the skin will be exposed to the disease. He also called on people to refrain from urinating in open streams of water.

or near them and suggested that parents prevent their children from playing near open streams. If labourers are obliged to work near streams, it would be preferable if they wear long waterproof boots to protect themselves from bilharzia snails, he said.

Dr. Qub'ain denied a report in the local press a few days ago that the Ministry of Health plans to vaccinate people against bilharzia. No vaccine has yet been found to give immunity against the disease, he said.

28 infested sites

Health Minister Kamel Ajlouni was asked to comment on the presence of bilharzia cases in Jordan during a Lower House of Parliament meeting Monday. He said that the Ministry of Health has located 28 sites where water has been found to be infested with bilharzia snails and there were only nine bilharzia cases of which had been cured, in the country.

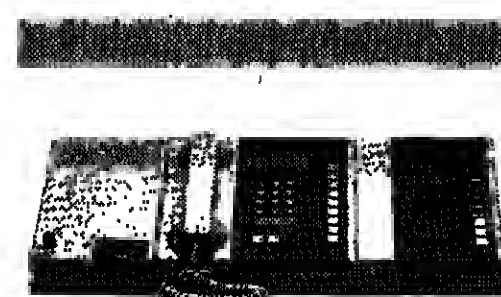
The Ministry of Health has warned the public against using, washing or bathing in the infested areas where, he said, the ministry is trying to eliminate the snails in their danger. He said that the ministry is cooperating with the World Health Organisation and the University of Jordan to try and eliminate the disease.

Jordan, Iraq decide to sign agriculture protocol

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Jordan and Iraq have agreed to sign a protocol on cooperation in agricultural fields. Agreement on this protocol came during a meeting between Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and his Iraqi counterpart in Baghdad.

News Agency, Petra, Dr. Anani said that the talks with Iraqi officials centred on the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Iraqi industrial company to be set up in Amman with an initial capital of JD 20 million. He said that Iraq and Jordan have endorsed joint light industries which will be set up in the two countries.

IN HOSPITALS, SPEED DIALING CAN BE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.



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National awareness needed

THE recommendations issued Sunday by the seminar on the safety of pedestrians, which was held in Zarqa on Dec. 11, are all worthy of consideration and adoption. Starting from the need to abide by speed limits, and setting new ones, through establishing educational schools for negligent and irresponsible drivers to paying special care to the handicapped, the recommendations, if implemented, are sure to help reduce road accidents in the country, thus minimising road fatalities and injuries.

It is indeed painful and tragic to read about so many people killed and injured on our roads every day. The other day, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, expressed his regret that every day brings with it more news about road accidents shocking the public. He said at a meeting with the director of the Licensing Department, who presented him with a guidebook on traffic rules, that reckless driving was a major factor responsible for the fatal mistakes which claim lives.

In fact, recklessness of drivers is not the only factor responsible for accidents. There are other factors, like bad conditions of roads, the nervousness and tension caused by jammed roads the condition of vehicles using the road, and speeding bear a direct effect on the whole situation.

In a bid to reduce the number of accidents on the roads, society and the government should work hand in hand and cooperate in full. The recommendations of the pedestrian seminar in Zarqa suggested the introduction of special courses for instructing school children on safety on the roads and this is very important indeed because these young pedestrians will continue to abide by the regulations and to respect the traffic law if they are trained to do that since the earliest possible age.

The government also has a basic role to play in reducing the number of accidents. It can order all roads and city streets to have wide pavements for pedestrians, increase the presence of street signs to help both pedestrians and drivers avoid accidents and introduce measures by which to ensure more cooperation between policemen and the public.

Of course, careful driving and abiding by speed limits on the part of drivers help them not only to avoid accidents but also save them from paying fines for speeding. To help the whole process of reducing accidents in Jordan make a headway, an intensive awareness campaign through the press and other media should be launched and all public and private institutions in the country should be involved in it so that it can achieve success.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Investigating Operation Falasha

FOREIGN MINISTER Taher Al Masri said here Saturday that Jordan strongly opposes the emigration of Jews from any Arab or foreign country into Israel. He also condemned such actions and said that Jordan will follow up the issue of the airlifting of Ethiopian Jews into occupied Palestine.

Following up the issue will no doubt help Jordan and other Arab countries to assess the details of the operation which will face us with the truth about whether there has been negligence or collusion by Arab countries, especially Sudan, in helping Israel carry out its scheme.

There is no doubt that the Ethiopian Jews arrived in Israel by passing through Sudan. The operation was not conducted secretly but took weeks to complete and this prompts us to wonder why the Sudanese government had not questioned the Jews about their destination or about the motives behind transporting the Jews from Ethiopia to other countries.

Jordan has a responsibility like other Arab countries to follow up this issue to determine the truth about the situation and should define the role of any country that took part in the operation. Sending more Jews to occupied Palestine means building more settlements there and more eviction of Arabs from their homeland. Keeping silent about the operation or condoning such operations means accepting its destructive consequences and encouraging other nations to allow their Jews to emigrate and settle in occupied Palestine.

Al Dustour: Reagan knows Mideast situation

PRESIDENT REAGAN starts his second term in office Monday amid gala celebrations of a great victory over the Democrats. This new term opens for Reagan more opportunities to work for his country on the domestic and foreign fronts. This would certainly happen if the president is allowed to rule uninterrupted for four more years, something which had not happened in the White House for the past two decades.

No doubt, the president will be faced with a host of international issues which include the Middle East among others. For us this issue is the main international problem that requires speedy solution because it affects security and peace in our region and other parts of the world as well. We hope that the president will tackle this issue with fairness and justice and courage.

We do not believe that the president will need a great deal of time to review the Middle East and its developments over the past four years when he was in office at the White House, and therefore we hope that in his second term in office the president will play a balanced role for achieving justice and peace, and so help to regain for his country credibility and confidence of other nations.

Sawt Al Shaab: Falasha airlift should be investigated

DESPITE THE fact that the airlifting of Ethiopian Jews constitutes a serious problem for the Arabs, many Arab governments have apparently started to shelve this issue. The transportation of Jews to Palestine was one more link in a long chain of immigrating Jews into occupied Palestine exercised by the Zionists since the turn of this century.

Immigration is being escalated now in view of Arab negligence of the Palestine problem and the lack of unity and joint action among Arab countries. The newcomers are to be settled in the occupied Arab lands and will no doubt be made to help evict more Palestinians from their homes.

It is true that a number of Arab countries have issued condemnation of the operation, but the Arab League, more than any other party, should take steps to confront such actions. The Arab League should in fact help adopt a unified Arab strategy to stop the immigration of Jews into Palestine in view of the seriousness of the case and the danger inherent in this action.

Jordan has asked that an Arab fact-finding mission be set up to investigate the case of airlifting Jews from Ethiopia into Israel with the aim of putting an end to the immigration of all Jews from any country into occupied Palestine.

Jordan is dignified enough to repel intimidation

By Tareq Masarweh

JORDAN HAS on several occasions emphasised that its policy for acquiring weapons by no means reflects a political stand. It has always believed that as long as arms are for sale in the international market, and as long as a country possesses the right to exercise its sovereignty, it can by all means select the type of arms it wants and the source to get them from. If, however, the country selling arms to Jordan tries to conduct the deal within a political framework, then Jordan will have to take a principled political attitude towards it.

Of late, we have been hearing warnings by American circles against Jordan's buying an

air defence system from the Soviet Union. Though the warnings were not coupled with a threat of inflicting "penalty" which would ensue if such a deal is consummated, observers assume that such a threat means that the United States will refrain from selling Jordan any arms in the future.

These American warnings are not acceptable because the United States is already imposing such a "penalty" before a deal has been concluded with the Soviet Union. It is well known that Washington has been refusing to supply Jordan with its needs of defensive weapons, and therefore we can consider the warnings and the

"penalty" to be no more than suspensions.

Everyone knows that the United States has been imposing terms and conditions which Jordan can never accept or even discuss. Washington has always been trying to make Jordan come to terms with its wishes for joining the so-called peace process, American way.

Jordan has always wanted Washington to join the "peace march", but the latter has always insisted on Jordan's acceptance of Israel's expansion and submission to its aggression. Jordan has always been willing to see Washington help to establish peace in the

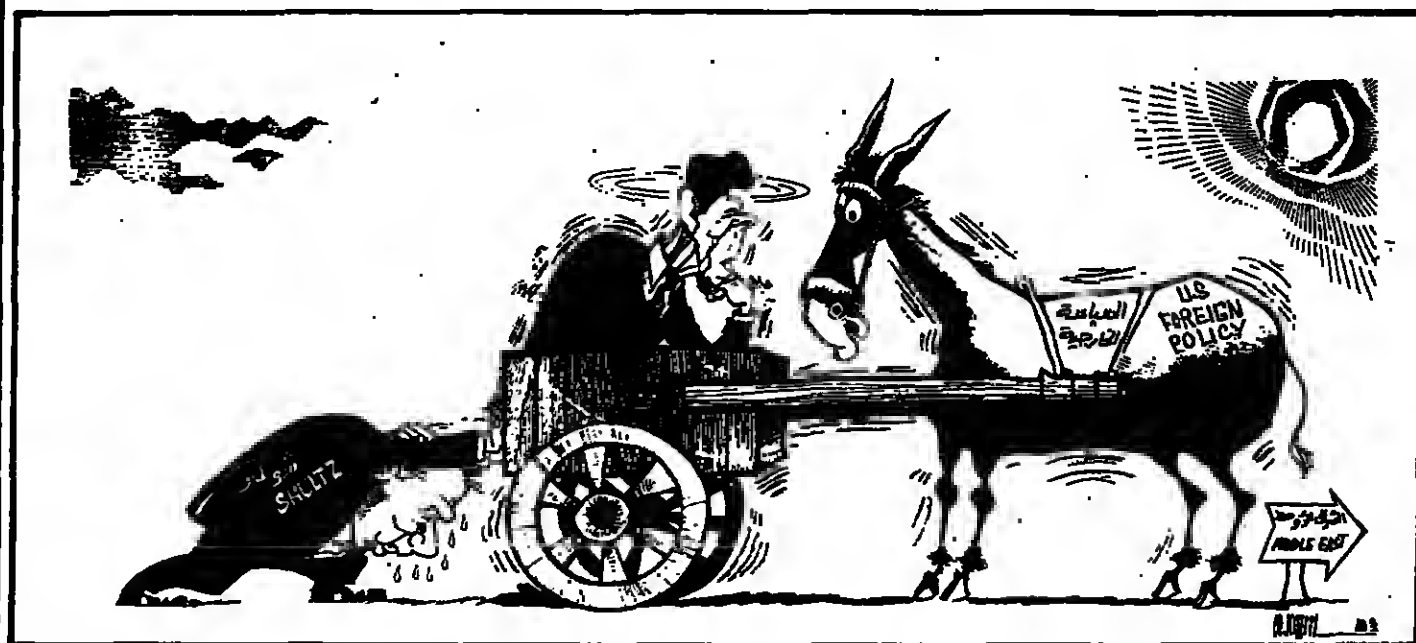
Middle East by adopting a balanced attitude vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the U.S. biased attitude towards Israel, its alliance with the Zionist state and its backing of its extremist policies have invariably constituted a major obstacle to the peace process. For this reason, Jordanian-American relations have often been marked by crises since the late 1970s. These crises have prompted Jordan on several occasions to buy arms from Britain and France before turning to the Soviet Union for the air defence system.

We do not have abundant information about the cir-

cumstances surrounding the issue of arms supplies for the Jordanian armed forces, but we believe that the Jordanian-Soviet arms relations will further be developed, because Moscow does not impose any political conditions for supplying arms. Besides Moscow has been showing understanding of Jordan's financial situation. The Soviets rightly believe that security and stability can be established in our region when all countries, including Jordan, feel they possess sufficient strength and potential to defend themselves and are capable of repelling Israel's aggressive and expansionist actions.

American warnings to Jordan not to exercise its legitimate right of securing means of self-defence and protecting its independence and national dignity are a product of extremely arrogant and stupid mentality, and Jordanians cannot but ignore them and treat them with due contempt.

On the other hand, the clean Soviet hand extended to us in friendship is one that we all respect and shake. We are not ashamed of our strong relations with the Soviet Union, but we do feel ashamed of those who indignantly choose to befriend the enemies of the Arab Nation.



Jewish terrorism on the rise

Trial of Jewish terrorists by Israeli courts feared to legitimise terror

By Michael Schwartz

THE TRIAL of the Jewish underground terrorists could well become a trial of Israeli society. The rocket attack on an Arab bus in the middle of Jerusalem on Oct. 28 made it all too clear that the arrest of 27 Jewish terrorists has by no means put an end to anti-Arab terrorism. The fear is that the trial, instead of putting an end to Jewish terrorism, will in fact legitimise it.

For several years, Jewish terrorist organisations have set their sights on the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa mosques in East Jerusalem. So far little has been done to check them. Yoel Lerer was imprisoned in 1978 for planning to bomb the mosques and "free the Temple Mount." Today he is a free man and in command of a new youth movement that pays regular visits to the mosques, often provoking their Muslim guardians. Twenty-five religious vigilantes were caught one night in March 1983 near the mosque with digging tools, aiming to enter from below and hold a prayer meeting inside. They were vindicated by Judge Barak, the judge who presided over the trial of the terrorists. A group of eccentrics, "the Lifta Group", living in an abandoned Arab village, was caught last summer trying to climb the walls of the mosque. Huge quantities of ammunition and explosives were found in their hideout. When a senior police officer, Commander Hefetz, leaked that earlier investigation of the gang had been stopped on orders from above, he was tried for giving out confidential information. His investigations were left unpursued.

Defence lawyers aim to turn the victims of the Jewish underground into criminals.

Anti-Arab terrorist acts, from the attempts on the lives of the Palestinian mayors up to the latest terror campaign against the Deheisha refugee camp, number in the hundreds. The Karp report, describing illegal acts by settlers with the army's complicity or tacit agreement, was published only after a public protest at its shelving. Its findings have so far been ignored. Jewish terrorism was further legitimised when Rabbi Meir Kahane was elected to the Israeli parliament. Kahane financed the trial of Alan Goodman, an American who burst into Al-Aqsa killing and wounding a number of Muslims. It is also believed that Kahane was behind the latest rocket attack on the Arab bus in Jerusalem. Nor can Sharon's entry into the new government as minister of industry be helpful to a serious campaign against terrorism. Sharon was the defence minister at the time of the worst violence in the West Bank and is believed to have deliberately ignored settlers' "excesses".

Even at this early stage of the trial, the extent of public support for the defendants and the political issues raised seem to have

surpassed the powers of any Israeli court. Shass (Sephardic Jews' party) made its joining the government conditional on the release of the defendants. Mapdai (the National Religious Party) placed its offices at the services of the Committee for the Underground Defendants. A crowd of 170,000 people addressed by Sharon responded to the committee's appeal and celebrated the Simhat Tora holiday by dancing in the streets in the centre of occupied Hebron. Recently, a lobby of 50 Knesset members (MKs) including the Labour minister of agriculture, Nehemiah, began organising a campaign to change the status of the defendants from "security prisoners" in order to improve their prison conditions, and to grant them an amnesty. As it is, the defendants already enjoy unprecedented prison facilities.

trial in a civil court rather than a military one, where all Arab security prisoners are tried on the basis of the Emergency Defence Regulations. It seems that the court accepted this difference a priori. The defendants themselves are confident that they will soon be set free, if not by a court decision then by a pardon. "We were acting in the interests of the state" and "we have connections outside", they frequently repeat.

At present the principal defence argument is that Shin Bet (the secret service) knew and approved of their activities. The special relationship between Shin Bet and the defendants is outstanding not only in its cordiality, but also in the promises and deals made between the two. Defendants claim that they have a deal with Shin Bet that in return for their confessions they

would not be accused of attempting to blow up the mosques, which would be covered up because "it harms the interests of Israel", and that Shin Bet would recommend a pardon. Shin Bet reluctantly admits making promises but denies the existence of a binding deal. Part of such a deal, however, concerning permission for a religious school inside prison and for defendants to organise their defence together, seems already to have been implemented.

Defendants' claims about Shin Bet's previous knowledge and involvement with the underground movement can't be proved, since it is Shin Bet and not the court that has last say on all matters concerning security. Not being responsible to the court or to any public body save the prime minister, Shin Bet is in a position to manipulate the material in its hands and pass to the court only what it sees fit. So far it has vetoed defence demands to see investigation material, and its agents are being cross examined in camera. This leaves a number of ques-

tions unanswered. Why did it take four years to find those who tried to assassinate the Palestinian mayors when it takes only weeks at the most to find Palestinians accused of acts of violence? Why were the mayors never questioned by the security forces, and why is there still no one interested in the evidence they may have? Why is one of the suspects, Irit Rapoport, still freely collecting donations in the U.S. for settlers? Why is Rabbi Valdman of the Tefila party still a free man although there is evidence that he had early knowledge of the planned assassination of the mayors and did nothing to prevent it?

Defence lawyers aim to turn the victims of the Jewish underground into criminals by alleging that the Palestinian mayors are in fact PLO members and terrorists; silencing them was a question of "self-defence", they claim, in view of the inadequacy of the army, who abandoned the settlers' women and children to the Arab mobs. This line is supported by the parliamentary lobby which is vocally demanding to tie any discussion of Jewish terrorism to "reviewing security policy in the West Bank". The defence plans to bring the former chief-of-staff, Rafael Eitan, and the former minister of defence, Ariel Sharon, to the witness stand to prove that the terrorists had grounds to assume that their actions were in line with official policy. This may prove interesting in view of the very good relations which a senior defendant, Ben Shushan, has with Sharon and other top personnel in the security establishment.

A PORI opinion poll showed in July that 14.3 per cent of Israeli Jews were in "total support" of the Jewish underground, and that 17.5 per cent found there was "some justification for it." The defendants' confidence in widespread Israeli support for their aims reached such levels that they "demanded" that the court forbid the presence of a Palestinian lawyer. Darwish Nasser, who is representing (deposed) Mayors Khalaf and Tawil, on account of his "representing terrorists". This the court refused, causing the defendants' families to leave in protest. The state attorney, however, denied Mr. Nasser the status of an interested party by refusing him access to investigation material.

The principal defence argument is that Shin Bet knew and approved of the (terrorists') activities.

The absence from the trial of the Palestinian party is all too conspicuous. The Palestinians regard with great suspicion a court which, contrary to international law, accepts the right of Jews to settle in the occupied territories and "protect themselves". The question will not be solved, they feel, between Shin Bet, the army and the settlers. Jewish terrorism will be stopped only by putting an end to the occupation altogether — Middle East International, London.

TASS says Zionists were partners of Germany's Nazis

By Oliver Wates
 Reuter

MOSCOW — The Soviet news agency TASS Friday published charges that Zionists had been "partners" of Germany's Nazis and shared the blame for the deaths of millions of Jews during World War II.

A TASS interview with Soviet historian Lev Kornev said Zionists had helped dictator Adolf Hitler during his rise to power and, by implication, linked the Nazis with current Israeli policies.

The agency quoted Mr. Kornev "in conversation with a TASS correspondent" as saying Zionists had tried to prevent Jews fighting the Nazis.

The Zionists subsequently sought to conceal their "alliance with Nazism", but still had contacts with neo-Nazis, he said.

TASS quoted Mr. Kornev as saying many Jews had fought against Nazism in the Soviet and allied armies. "But the Zionists, the Nazis' partners, did not have anything to do with that sacred struggle," he said.

"Conversely, they share with the Nazis responsibility for the extermination of Jews during World War II. They have the blood of the victims on their hands, and on their conscience."

The official Soviet media frequently attack Zionism as an imperialist and racist doctrine and link it firmly to Israel and U.S. supporters of Israeli policies.

The Soviet state treats its own Jews as a national, rather than a religious, group — one of more than 100 in the country.

Mr. Kornev said a Jewish-owned Amsterdam bank lent Hitler \$10 million in 1929, while a Cologne-based banking house, also owned by Jews, had discussed with the Nazis their "final sol-

ution". "Banks and companies controlled by Zionists energetically contributed to the financing of the Hitler Reich and the Nazi war machine. Many of those banks and companies today constitute the bulwark of international Zionism and support Tel Aviv's course of aggression," he said.

TASS said Mr. Kornev charged that Israeli propaganda sought to reduce the history of World War II to an attempted extermination of European Jews.

"It is claimed that the extermination of Jews was the main aspect of the policy of Nazism and that all the peoples of the world 'betrayed' the European Jews," it quoted him as saying.

"This amounts to a gross distortion of real historical facts. The main aspect of Nazi policy... was struggle against socialism, against the Soviet Union," it said.

The Soviet media present the war as mainly a struggle between Germany and the Soviet Union and play down the role of the other allied powers. Nazi actions are shown as fired from the start by a desire to crush Communism.

Mr. Kornev said Zionism was a product of imperialism and represented the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"Cooperation between international Zionism and fascism during World War II, was explained by their common class nature and hatred for Communism," he said.

"The laws of class unity lead the Zionists even today, into cooperation with the revanchists and neo-Nazis," Mr. Kornev said.

Revanchism is the Soviet term for the desire among West Germans to be reunited with East Germany or recover lands once part of Germany from Poland and the Soviet Union.

LETTERS

Is pricing gold possible?

To the Editor:

UNDER THE heading "London exchange rates," the price of one ounce of gold is always given on Jordan Times page seven. Can we expect your esteemed newspaper to kindly publish the price of one ounce of gold in Jordanian dinars under page two "Money Exchange" heading?

We also hope that Jordan Television would adopt a similar step in its 7 p.m. programme rundown on Channel Three.

I have no idea if gold prices are standardised by the government, but they vary quite considerably in the market. Not only gold prices, but also the goldsmith's charges differ a great deal. For one gold ring of the same size, shape and weight, the charges vary from JD 8 to JD 14. Is it possible to get clarification on this issue either through your editor or from the government, as it is really intriguing?

R.P. Agrawal,
 Amman.

THE Jordan Times sought clarification on the subject of pricing gold in Jordan from Dr. Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; Mr. Salah Eddin Taha, director of Standardisation and Metrology Department; and Mr. Ghaleb Sakikjah, president of the Gold Traders Union. Following is a summary of the reasons cited for not setting a daily price for gold.

1. Bullion gold trading takes place in large financial centres only. The Central Bank of Jordan does not supply the Jordanian market with gold bullion and its function is in approving buying application from goldsmiths. The Central Bank of Jordan has issued commemorative gold coins in the past and has set a fixed price for them then.

2. Goldsmiths watch the prices of bullion gold as it trades in Hong Kong, London and New York and large fluctuations in the price are automatically reflected in the market.

3. The competition in the jewelry market is fierce and any price fixing will not be logical as workmanship, design and sales incentives are also very much dominant.

4. If the Central Bank of Jordan buys bullion gold and then resells it, as is now the case in Istanbul-Turkey, then a price fix will take place, but under the free enterprise economy such price setting is left to market forces.

5. The government moved to protect the interest of the public by decreeing that all jewellers should stamp the standard karat of each jewelry by January 1985, and that is the most it can do at this stage due to the aforementioned reasons.

6. Fixing price on jewelry is also very difficult due to the karat standard or purity of the gold jewel as mathematical calculations for it are so wide ranging to fix a price for each jewel in addition to workmanship, design and finishing already mentioned.

'Ali the Galilean' reflects oppression, weariness

EL HAKAWATI theatre group operating in the occupied Arab territories has forced its way through occupation obstacles, big ones as they are, and into people's minds. The group has suffered many setbacks and have been frequently subject to deliberate intimidation by the occupation authorities. Nonetheless, they have persistently maintained tireless effort to convey some kind of a social and political message to their audience — their people — having to make compromises to have things pass through the censor sometimes and most often the police, who would not hesitate to impose a play within the play being presented by El Hakawati members. Following is an Israeli writer's critique of the group's most recent play, *Ali the Galilean*. The writer's view, we believe, reflects that of a liberal-minded critic, so rare in Israel, of an Arab work of art.

By Zvi Jagendorf

THE PALESTINIAN theatre group El Hakawati takes its name from the itinerant story teller who used to travel from village to village peddling his tales, wonders, songs and characters to anyone who would listen. The village entertainer has long been swallowed up by the likes of Dallas and Love Boat, and his tales have become research material for ethnologists. But by resuscitating his ghost in their name, the Jerusalem-based group has made a self-conscious and qualified gesture towards an indigenous tradition. They see themselves as its successors but they adopt neither its material nor its manner. They have no use for nostalgic folklore that imagines a past in terms of simplicity, purity and bright colours.

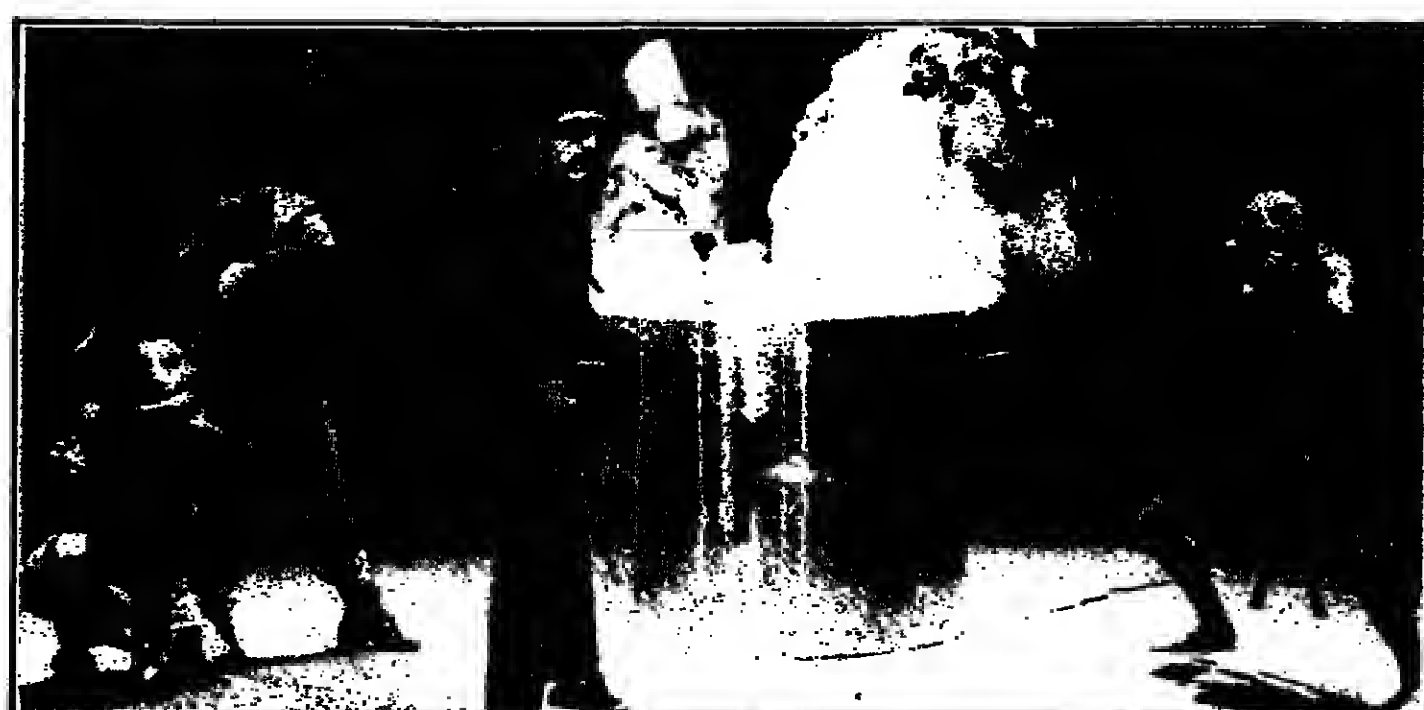
If their name implies loyalty to a local tradition, their interests and aims are political and contemporary. Their style is strongly influenced by such European masters of political guignol as Savary of Le Grand Magic Circus, and their audience is as likely to be French and Italian as some theatre festival as Arab or Jewish in Jerusalem. Tel Aviv or Ramallah.

El Hakawati now has a theatre in Jerusalem, the former Nuzha cinema in a little lane behind the Tombs of the Kings, and they are

showing their latest play, *Ali the Galilean*, which received its first performances at Tel Aviv's Neve Tzedek Theatre Centre last summer. In commo with the best Israeli playwrights and directors, they have had their brushes with the censor (in their case the more arbitrary censorship of the military government). But they exist, they perform on both sides of the Green Line, and they have something to say in their own language to anyone who will listen.

Ali is about the Palestinian (or the Israeli Arab as we might say) as a one-person. Staged as a series of parodies of popular entertainment (TV melodrama, westerns, cops and robbers, true romances, ballet and mime), Ali's saga is coaxed as a chain of comic misfortunes. These start in his Galilean village, where his father cuts off his inheritance, continue in the squalid city of Tel Aviv, where he shows his skill with the falafel scoop, and end in a mental hospital, where his brain explodes in the middle of a lobotomy, destroying surgeon, nurses and himself in a cataclysm powered by frustration.

However, the root cause of Ali's misfortunes is not shown on stage but is implied in the absurdity of his life, and in the language of parody which alone can convey the thinness and ridiculousness of an



Scene from *Ali the Galilean* by the Palestinian theatre group El Hakawati

unnecessary existence. Ali is an unreal man, a kind of Luftmensch, because he has been born in a country which is both his own and deeply alien to him. He is an Israeli malgre lui and in order to get by in Israel he is advised to shed everything that is his own, beginning with the first and last evidence of his identity — his name. His Tel Aviv "friends" suggest he call himself Eli, then all doors and hearts will be open to him.

Clearly this play is not "constructive." It offers no solution. Were it more ideological it would preach the solution of rebellion and be banned. But it is not a diatribe. Ali, played by Edward Mo'allim, is a mournful clown in baggy pants, with the face of an insulted spaniel. He is the ultimate

passive, unmitigated hero. His emptiness is filled by whatever happens to be passing by — Tel Aviv low life, a Jewish girl, menial work.

Jewish society, which exploits his emptiness, is shown as sordid, venal, shabby and heartless. But when a bunch of "terrorists" stop the action, and show how they would fill this emptiness with murder, this turns out to be a deliberate and instructive anticlimax. For the terrorists are not Ali as he would like to be but the Palestinians as some Israelis would see them: monsters and murderers. In the terms of the performance, this is yet another parody, another false role imposed on Ali by people who do not understand him.

I asked Edward Mo'allim if Palestinian audiences, perhaps unused to this ironic way of exposing a national and political stereotype, reacted as if the gunmen were the "true" solution. He said it sometimes did happen that way, but the text that followed the incident made it impossible to get the wrong message.

Be that as it may, this kind of theatre more than any other takes on the energy of its audience. Performed in a refugee camp, the passivity of the hero may be taken as a sign of his failure to be a revolutionary. Performed in Tel Aviv, it would be read as evidence of Ali's metamorphosis into the classic Jew — rootless clown, victim and superfluous man, yet a monster in the eyes of those who

hate him. For an Israeli, watching this play is like seeing bits of "your" life in a broken mirror. It seems distorted, unfair "to you". You would not put it that way. But that is just the point. "You" are not the victim here. "You" are the soldier, the employer, the censor and the state. Ali, you might say, should feel lucky he's living in a free country and can display his troubles on the stage. He doesn't feel lucky, and if "you" want to find out why, the play's the thing.

Ali the Galilean is directed by Francois Abu Salem. The actors are: Edward Mo'allim, Rami Shehadeh, Jackie Lubeck, Ibrahim Khalaleh, Monira Shehadeh, Imran One — The Jerusalem Post Magazine.

Randa Habib's Corner

Students in striped uniforms?

THE MINISTRY of Education has decided that all school children will be wearing the same uniform next year. Protests of different people did not shake the determination of the ministry to implement this rule.

I understand the frustration of some schools that wish to keep their own identity. I understood it even more when I saw the proposed uniform, made of cotton with fine blue and white stripes, the "safari" style. This uniform is good for prisoners. I have never seen anything uglier and I fully support the schools that are horrified at the idea of transforming their students into militant's of the Mao Tse Tung army.

Furthermore, I wonder what the students, would do in winter, dressed in cotton. Many schools are not or are badly heated. This means that the majority of students would have to wear woolen clothes under their "safari", and this will make it appear even uglier.

We cannot deny the government the privilege of taking decisions regarding governmental schools, even though I cannot help but think that many students will have to change their uniforms while their present ones are still in good shape. Those are illogical and unexplainable expenses in a country where we are constantly advised to minimise our consumption.

As for private schools, why can't the government leave them in peace — they are private after all.

Some of these schools already have their uniforms and stocks of fabrics. Why should they be compelled to suffer such losses? Others do not believe in uniforms (and it is their right) and teach their students freedom even in matters of clothing. Jeans. Even sweat shirts are acceptable to them.

The country is passing through a period of economic crisis. Why should such whimsical and unnecessary decisions, involving thousands of dinars, be taken?

Those new uniforms will provide work for one or two small local factories. Could this be the reason behind this decision?

Soviets, Americans acknowledge the debts of war

By Charles Mathias

WASHINGTON — Throughout the Soviet Union today there are men and women who owe their lives to American generosity. And all across America there are families that exist only because of the sacrifices of the Red Army. The debts date from World War II. Mutual obligations, they remain largely unacknowledged.

This year both countries celebrate the 40th anniversary of their victories in Europe and the Pacific. The official observances will be ceremonial, stirring and, in most cases, separate. It has become inconvenient for officials in Moscow and Washington to recall the wartime alliance, just as it is difficult to commemorate the transformation of Germany and Japan from foes to friends.

But as we devise tactful ways to honour the postwar reconciliation, we should also look for means to refresh, if not restore, the atmosphere of U.S.-Soviet cooperation.

During the four years from Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 to Japan's surrender in 1945, American and Soviet troops saw little of each other. The link-up at the Elbe River on April 25, 1945, joined armies that had maintained communications with one another only at the highest (and often most strained) political level. The individual, human contact that burst into joyful celebration there and in similar encounters in Czechoslovakia was the exception, not the rule, in the conduct of the alliance. While I believe we should commemorate the meeting on the Elbe, many other activities led up to that moment and made it possible. Those all-but-forgotten endeavours deserve to be remembered.

It should not be impossible to find survivors of the joint Soviet-American crew that sailed the cruiser USS Milwaukee from the Brooklyn Navy Yard to Murmansk in the spring of 1944. As the ship was formally handed over there, Americans stood the port watch for several symbolic days while Soviet seamen took the starboard duty. To recreate that camaraderie, at least briefly, we need only take our memories out of mothballs.

In that same spirit, the military record keepers could perhaps track down the men and women who served together in building and operating three airfields at Poltava in the Ukraine. It was there, on June 2, 1944, that 73 Flying Fortresses landed after a flight from Italy and a highly successful bombing run on the enemy airfield at Debrecen in Hungary.

Poltava, the battlefield where Peter the Great destroyed the Swedish Army in June 1709, was the one site in the USSR where Soviets and Americans conducted joint combat operations: 18 shuttle-bombing missions that made history at the time but have become footnotes since.

Somewhere, though, one American aviator who flew on that first run may still recall his reaction when he landed: "Russia! Nobody ever told us it was pretty." And among his hosts then there may still live some who remember the four months of Operation Frantic when the bases were built from scratch by American and Soviet soldiers who competed in trying to learn each other's language and who delighted in passing off hair-curling obscenities in English or Russian as formal or endearing phrases suitable for social use.

There surely still are merchant seamen in the United States who sailed some of the 2,660 ships (77 were lost) on the Murmansk run, bringing more than 15 million tons of supplies to the Soviet Union. Even if some Soviet recipients joked wryly about our cans of Spam being the "Second Front", others christened American butter "Roosevelt's Smile". Statistics show that U.S. provisions were enough to provide the 12 million members of the Red Army with a half a pound of food a day throughout the war.

For some civilians the food and clothing that came from private, rather than Lend-Lease aid, was truly life-giving. Leo Grulioff, a Christian Science Monitor correspondent in Moscow in the 1970s, says he was warmly welcomed whenever he identified himself as a former official of the Russian War Relief.

"You saved my life," his secretary-translator told him, recalling the American overcoat he had received in an orphanage in mid-war.

As a reporter, Mr. Grulioff also covered the story of the American Red Cross official who repatriated a group of 800 to 900 orphans who had been evacuated early in the war from Leningrad to the Far East. In a journey that lasted almost a year, he transported them by sea across the Pacific, by rail across America and by boat home again after the war.

"Whatever the silences in the official press, whatever the propaganda and the level of hostility," Mr. Grulioff believes, "the Russian people don't forget. They know all about what happened." Most Americans, however, do not know or have forgotten. And Soviet officials have tried to erase the folk memory of the wartime collaboration. Yet there are moments of unpublised gratitude.

Travelling last August on a Dnieper River excursion steamer from Kiev to Odessa, Ray Ellis, a former Lend-Lease official in the Soviet Union, was surprised when the captain presented him with a bowl. He was told it was an award for his wartime service, which had included 10 months in Novosibirsk helping Soviet workers build a radio-tube factory so that their units could establish and maintain communication with American forces as the twin advanced towards each other across Europe.

"There's a smouldering fire there. If we could just blow on it, it would burst out again," says Mr. Ellis, a former Raytheon vice president.

This anniversary year is the time to try in small, human ways to revive that warmth by reuniting those who once kindled it. There should be reunions — not just on the Elbe, but in Murmansk and Poltava and in the American factory towns where Soviet soldiers and workers trained to use the planes, trucks and jeeps, specially built locomotives and freight cars that were so vital to victory.

In both the United States and the Soviet Union, an effort should be made to assemble and print first-person recollections of an extraordinary time of cooperation. There should be gatherings of scholars and combatants from the victors and the vanquished. We may find some guidance towards a future of peace — The Washington Post.

The writer is a Republican senator from Maryland.

Japan's newspapers sharpen claws, fight a circulation war

The newspaper circulation war has become a distinctive feature of Japanese life, and the coveted title of the biggest selling newspaper in the world has meant there are no holds barred in the competition. Richard Tinkles, recently in Tokyo, reports.

Japanese newspapers are in the thick of a circulation war. Here, however, the name of the game is not bingo but *oshigami*: literally, push-paper, but in plain English, the hard sell.

The fighting tactics have become sufficiently dirty for Japan's Fair Trade Commission to deliver a stiff warning to the newspapers and their distributors to stop the feuding or risk legal reprisals.

The chances are that the warning will be ignored, for among the prizes which the victor in this war carries off is the coveted title of the biggest selling newspaper in the world.

Japan's population of 119 million has a voracious appetite for newspapers. Daily sales last year averaged 66.78 million and the diffusion rate, at 563 papers per 1,000 people or 1.82 copies per household, is the world's highest. Only the Soviet Union has a higher total circulation, at 102.46 million a day. The U.S. is third with 62.22 million, West Germany is next with 25.97 million, and Britain follows with 25.22 million.

One of the main factors lying behind Japan's high circulation figures is its distribution system. The vast majority of newspapers — 92.5 per cent — are sold not at news stands but by monthly subscription and are delivered by each newspaper's distributors to subscribers' homes.

The figures are also boosted by the fact that the national and big local newspapers publish both

morning and afternoon editions, so that subscribers get two deliveries a day. If both editions are counted as one newspaper, the national circulation figure falls to 47.04 million.

Until 1983 Japanese newspapers had enjoyed an almost uninterrupted growth in circulation since 1945. This was partly because of the country's rapid increase in population, partly because of growing economic prosperity, and partly because of educational reforms which resulted in a high adult literacy rate (now at over 99 per cent).

This period saw intense competition for new readers not only among the national newspapers, which were busily setting up regional offices and printing plants to extend their local coverage, but between the nationals and the local dailies which, with the help of the news agencies, were also covering national and international news.

Given the nature of the distribution system, one of the most effective ways of winning new readers was to lure would-be subscribers with gifts or introductory offers of free or cut-rate newspapers.

Although illegal under the fair trading laws, this practice was relatively harmless as long as the total market grew. In the last few years, however, as the population increase has levelled out and economic growth has slowed, the market's saturation point has approached; in 1983 daily sales sto-

pped their steady climb and went into reverse, falling by two per cent from the previous year's record average daily sales total of 68.14 million.

The result is that the circulation war has now turned into a cut-throat conflict in which the newspapers are fighting not for new readers but for each other's. It is an expensive and damaging battle in which newspapers are constrained to raise their prices "for fear of losing market share" while at the same time they are faced with the punitive costs of persuading readers to change their allegiances.

There are five national newspapers, all similar in appearance, all broadsheet, and all running at about 24 pages in the morning and 12 in the afternoon.

With the average daily sales of their morning editions alone, they are Yomiuri Shimbun (8.91 million), a populist newspaper generally supportive of the conservative Liberal Democratic government; Asahi Shimbun (7.48 million), regarded as the intellectual newspaper; Mainichi Shimbun (4.21 million); Nihon Keizai Shimbun, known as Nikkei (2.09 million), Japan's Financial Times; and Sankai Shimbun, a conservative newspaper popular with small businessmen.

The combined circulation of Yomiuri's morning and afternoon editions stood at 13.74 million in October and has earned it a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's highest circulation newspaper.

Yomiuri's relentless determination to get to the top and stay there has often been blamed for the savagery of the circulation

war. It outstripped Asahi to get to this position in the mid-1970s under the presidency of the charismatic Mitsuo Mutai, a man whose appetite for ever-higher sales is regarded in the industry as insatiable. Now aged 88 and honorary chairman of Yomiuri, he is still the driving force behind the newspaper's marketing campaign.

In this highly competitive climate, few newspapers dare jettison their market share by standing aloof from the sort of sales tactics which have attracted the attention of the Fair Trade Commission (Nikkei is a notable exception).

Oshigami is one such tactic. By its strict definition it describes the system whereby newspapers send their distributors more copies of the paper than were ordered. The distributor is forced to use whatever means he can to find customers for the extra copies because he has to pay for them; he dare not return them unsold for fear of incurring the wrath of the newspaper and losing his distribution contract. For the 70 per cent of distributors who have exclusive contracts with one newspaper, this would mean the loss of their livelihood.

Consequently it is not just the newspaper companies but also their distributors who are involved in aggressive marketing tactics. Both are involved in sending out door-to-door canvassers offering discounts on new subscriptions or free gifts.

Fickle subscribers could go a long way towards furnishing the households with some lures available: pots and pans, porcelain tea sets, carpets, bedding and even colour television sets have been

offered. At the cheaper end of the scale, vouchers which can be exchanged at off-licences and free tickets to baseball games have proved popular.

Last time these unlawful trading practices reached a crescendo, in 1982, the Fair Trade Commission contrived to bring about a truce. The result was the following year's fall in circulation.

This was enough to frighten the newspaper companies into a fresh bout of war-mongering last year culminating in the commission's latest warning on Oct. 31 that improper premiums must stop.

Eventually, however, it may be the squeeze on newspapers' profits rather than the largely ineffectual warnings of the Fair Trade Commission which brings the latest battle in the circulation war to a halt.

Financial difficulties seem to loom on all fronts. Sales growth has come to a halt: no one has dared raise cover prices (generally ¥70, or 36c) since 1980 for fear of losing market share; and advertisers, who have plenty of other media to choose from, are fed up with bailing the newspapers out of their difficulties by paying ever rising rates.

Meanwhile the cost of maintaining armies of canvassers to give away newspapers and furnish subscribers' houses is considerably greater than the extra income they produce.

The newspaper companies do not release individual profit and loss figures but many of the local dailies are said to be in trouble. Of the nationals, Mainichi, the main victim of Yomiuri's rise in circulation, has already been through

India develops nuclear energy to satisfy electrification needs

India is developing its nuclear energy programme, despite the fall from grace of nuclear electricity in the West. There is no anti-nuclear movement in India, and few institutions capable of monitoring the government's nuclear progress.

By Sumi Krishna Chauhan

NEW DELHI — By the year 2000, India will need three times as much electricity as it does today: the solution is nuclear energy, says Dr. Raja Ramanna, chairman of the country's Atomic Energy Commission. Despite the falling popularity of nuclear electricity in the West, few Indians disagree with Dr. Ramanna.

Speaking at the Indian National Science Academy here recently, Dr. Ramanna, who "fathered" India's 1974 atomic explosion in the Rajasthan desert, defended the country's 15-year nuclear power programme, which envisages an installed capacity of 10,000 Megawatts by the turn of the century.

Last year, professor Dharendra Sharma of Jawaharlal Nehru University claimed that India's nuclear programme was driven by the ambition of politicians rather than by rational energy considerations. In a controversial book, "India's Nuclear Estate", he castigated the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) for secrecy and unaccountability, and demanded that

the programme be stopped. Denying the charge of secrecy, Dr. Ramanna, who is also secretary to the DAE, said that documents relating to its plans and performances are public.

Critics admit that this is true, but claim that few people, even few scientists, have the scientific and technical knowledge to assess the DAE's performance. In 1980, the Planning Commission's Committee on Power reported that "lacking an independent source of expertise," it had not found it possible "to go in depth into the operational and maintenance practices of nuclear stations, especially with respect to their reactors."

Officials of the Department of Environment are privately concerned at Dr. Ramanna's continuing emphasis on nuclear energy. Although India's environmental movement has campaigned actively against hydro projects all over the country, there is virtually no anti-nuclear lobby.

In the next two decades, India will need 120,000 to 150,000 Megawatts of installed electric capacity for agriculture, industry,

domestic and commercial purposes. Together with the replacement of ageing power stations, this would mean a gross addition of 100,000-120,000 Megawatts of electricity — nearly trebling the present capacity.

Today, 40 per cent of India's energy is provided by firewood, dung, agricultural residues, human and animal labour. This is an already overstretched system, and over-use of firewood and dung is robbing the soil of its fertility. Electricity provides 18 per cent of India's energy, and fossil fuels the remaining 42 per cent.

Dr. Ramanna feels that the growing need for energy requires that all commercially and technically viable alternatives be fully exploited. Nuclear energy is more economical and less polluting than other energy sources, he claims, though he does not discuss the as yet unsolved problem of safe, permanent disposal of highly toxic spent nuclear fuel.

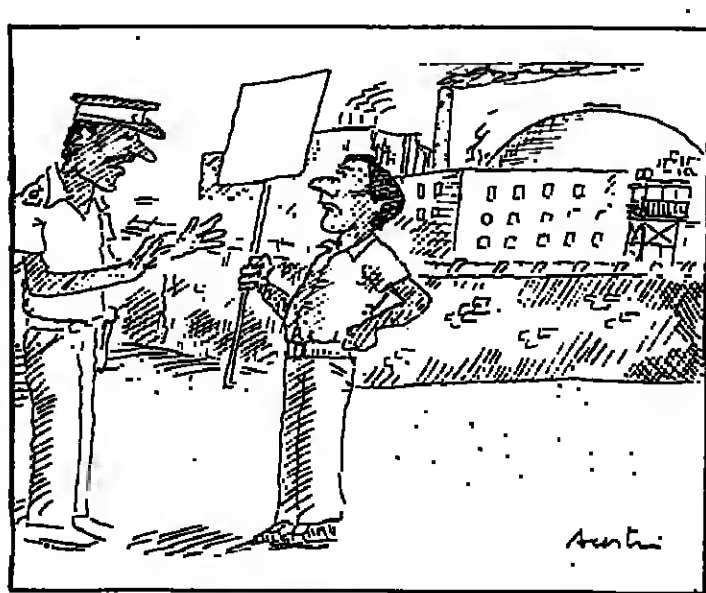
Oil and gas are scarce. The use of coal for electric generation is expected to increase steadily, but this is fraught with environmental hazards, he says. Hydropower, the only renewable source for large-scale electricity generation, is cheap and non-polluting, but plants can only be constructed at specific locations.

"New and renewable" energies — solar, wind, geothermal and tidal — are appropriate only for small, localised applications, says Dr. Ramanna, who calls them "exotic alternatives."

It is against this background that nuclear power is being advocated, together with fossil fuel and hydropower.

With the commissioning of the Madras Atomic power station last year, India became the sixth country in the world (after the U.S., USSR, Britain, France and Canada) to gain the capacity to design, construct, commission and operate a nuclear power station independently. India has two other operating power stations, one at Tarapur, near Bombay, the other at Rana Pratap Sagar in Rajasthan state. Its fourth plant at Narora, in Uttar Pradesh, and yet another at Kakrapur, in Gujarat state, are under construction. Under the 15-year programme, 12 reactors of 235 Megawatts, and 10 reactors of 500 Megawatts are to be built.

The capital cost of the programme is \$14 billion, and the total operation and maintenance cost till the year 2000 is \$8.3 billion. By present calculations, the department is expected to be making a profit by the year 2025 through the sale of electricity and the use of reprocessed nuclear fuel.



"All is illusion! You only imagine that you see a nuclear power station!"

The government is going full speed ahead on the basis of this optimistic picture of India's nuclear future. Its few critics want a complete stop to the programme. No one seems to be interested in the proposal of the Committee on Power to set up an independent, expert agency, outside the DAE, modelled on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to pre-

scribe and monitor the observance of safety standards for the siting, design, construction and operation of nuclear power stations.

The public and the media are so little interested in the nuclear energy question that Dr. Ramanna's speech was not even reported by some of New Delhi's leading national newspapers — Earthscan feature.

Curry retains WBA crown

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — American Don Curry stopped British challenger Colin Jones in the fourth round to retain his World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight crown amid disgraceful scenes Saturday night.

The fight ended 36 seconds into the round after Puerto Rican referee Ismael Fernandez had called up ringside doctor David Targett to inspect a deep cut across the bridge of Jones' nose inflicted by the American's quick-fire punches.

The fiercely partisan crowd erupted in anger over the decision. Bottles and coins were thrown into the ring and some fans, hurling abuse at both the referee and Curry, tried to breach security railings.

The scenes were reminiscent of those in London in September 1980 when American Marvin Hagler dethroned British world middleweight champion Alan Mimic. Hagler vowed that he would never again fight in Britain.

Curry, 23, dominated the scheduled 15-round fight with accurate jabbing and stinging right crosses.

The American entered the ring looking relaxed and sharp, while Jones had looked tense.

It was the 25-year-old Welshman's third attempt to land a world title. He drew with another American, Milton McCrory for

the World Boxing Council (WBC) crown in Reno, Nevada, in March 1983 and lost narrowly on points to McCrory five months later in Las Vegas.

He came out to a hero's welcome Saturday night. But it took Jones five minutes to walk from his changing room to the ring as the crowd surged forward to mob him.

Calm had to be restored before Curry made his entrance but the American, his face a picture of concentration throughout the fight, appeared unruffled by the hostile reception.

Even before the fight started the referee had to remove a coin thrown from the stands.

Jones was quickly in trouble as Curry pressed forward from the first bell, his front foot firm and his left jab flicking out venomously. The Welshman ended the first round bleeding from the nose.

Curry began the second round just as confidently, putting together some punishing combinations which took Jones by surprise and forced him back on to the ropes.

Curry, known as 'the Cobra' for his speed and patience, was quick to counter the Welshman's attacks in the third. He opened the cut across Jones' nose and the challenger returned to his corner at the bell with his face and chest smeared with blood.

Jones threw several wild left hooks at the start of the fourth in a desperate bid to floor the American. But it was all to no avail.

Referee Ismael Fernandez intervened as the blood continued to pour from Jones' nose and when the fight was stopped the challenger slumped on to the ropes and wept.

Afterwards he said: "I have never been stopped before and I feel so disappointed. I had so much fight left in me."

Curry and his manager Don Gorman both said they would consider returning to Britain to fight again. Gorman said that a few troublemakers were to be found at all fights and suggested he would bring WBA junior-welterweight champion Gene Hatcher here to defend his title against Britain's Terry Marsh soon.

Curry added: "I proved tonight that I am the best fighter in the world."

E. Germans claim bobsled title

CERVINIA, Italy (AP) — The East German team of Wolfgang Hoppe and Dietner Schauerhammer on Sunday won the world two-man bobsled title ahead of another East German duo of Detlef Richter and Steffen Grumm.

Hoppe, a 27-year student, won a gold medal, clocking an aggregate time of 4:18.72 minutes after four official runs Saturday and Sunday.

World Indoor Games end

PARIS (R) — The World Indoor Games provided a sprinkling of class performances this weekend despite the absence of so many athletics stars.

The presence of some 70 countries made the inaugural games the most cosmopolitan athletics assembly since the 1983 World Championships in Helsinki.

The likes of Carl Lewis, Jarmila Kratochvilova and Mary Decker, who helped make Helsinki unforgettable, stayed away from the Paris party.

But even though all the reigning Olympic individual champions turned their backs on an outing falling inconveniently early in the season, the two-day meeting at the Bercy Sports Palace had its memorable moments.

East Germany, never a country to squander their resources on hopeless sporting causes, sent just six athletes and left with four gold and two silver medals.

Thomas Schoenlebe, still short of his 20th birthday, set a world best time for the 400 metres to swell the ranks of East German world-beaters. His time of 45.60 sliced 0.19 seconds from the mark set last February by American Antonio McKay. It was the only world best of the meeting.

Compatriot Maria Koch also added another title to her collection. A European champion in 1978 and Olympic gold medalist two years later, Koch took the 200 metres title — albeit in Kratochvilova's absence — with consummate ease.

Silke Gladisch, Koch's teammate in the world championship gold medal sprint relay, won the 60 metres and long jumper Helga Radtke completed East Germany's golden quartet. Udo Beyer, 1976 Olympic champion, and fellow shot-putter Ines Mueller were the East German silver medalists.

The high jump and pole vault

both produced a theatrical climax. Patrik Sjoeborg, Sweden's Olympic silver medalist, soared to victory in the high jump ahead of 17-year-old Cuban prodigy Javier Sotomayor. But he failed in an attempt to set a world indoor best of 2.38 metres.

World champion Sergei Bubka, aided by his older but less celebrated brother Vasily, won the pole vault clash with French Olympic bronze medalist Thierry Vigneron.

Vigneron threw down the challenge by clearing 5.70 metres, but while Vasily Bubka failed to cap that, Sergei defiantly trumped the Frenchman with an effort of 5.75.

The competitiveness of their battle added spice to the meeting and recalled last September's duel in Rome when Vigneron claimed the world record only for the Soviet vaulter to seize it back.

There was excitement, too, in the men's sprints, both of which were decided by the wafer-thin margin of 0.01 seconds.

Ben Johnson, Canada's Olympic 100 metres bronze medalist, enjoyed the pleasure of a narrow victory over Sam Graddy, the American who beat him to the silver in Los Angeles.

Aleksander Evgeniev, Soviet-European indoor champion, was fastest away in the 200 but only just withstood the challenge of Britain's Ade Mafe.

Hosts France celebrated a victory in the 5-km walk by 35-year-old Gerard Lelievre and hailed Stephane Caristan, winner of the 60 metres hurdles, as successor to 1976 Olympic champion Guy Druet.

But the meeting told a partial story. Absent Europeans had the European Indoor Championships in Athens on their minds, while the Americans — who sent none of their nine reigning individual Olympic champions — preferred to stay at home so early in the season.

Spanish clubs face bankruptcy

By Pedro Diez
Reuter

MADRID — Spain's top soccer clubs, hit by spiralling costs and a streak of bad luck, are floundering in debt and many are on the verge of bankruptcy.

"It's the worst crisis in the history of Spanish football, sometimes I wonder if we can get out of it," said Salvador Gomar, manager of once-wealthy Valencia.

Debris from the 1982 World Cup, bad weather which has hit fixtures, a players' strike, poor results in the three European club competitions, a pools row, and falling gates have forced nearly all the first and second division clubs to tighten their belts.

Their total debt which was 12 billion pesetas (about \$69 million) two years ago has climbed to nearly 16 billion pesetas (\$91 million), according to league secretary general Jesus Samper.

Some smaller teams, once accustomed to high-class treatment now take public transport to matches to cut costs — but comfort and style are not the only casualties of the austerity moves.

The Spanish league, which has traditionally attracted top foreign stars, is now in danger of losing prestige as clubs grow reluctant to contract big-money names or do not have the capital to keep expensive internationals.

Valencia, strapped by a 1.6 billion peseta (\$9.1 million) debt, lost Argentine World Cup striker Mario Kempes last June because they could not afford to renew his contract.

Under the slogan "let's save Valencia" the club has launched a fund-raising drive but lotteries and appeals have produced meagre returns.

The financial crisis facing Valencia and many other clubs began when they borrowed huge sums to

remodel their grounds for the 1982 World Cup.

Some 11 clubs are haunted by debts and Atletico Madrid, Elche, Real Betis, Espanol Barcelona, Sevilla, Hercules Alicante, and Malaga have all had trouble keeping up repayments.

The situation has become so drastic that Roman Cuyas, the secretary of state for sport, asked for an audit of the clubs' debts to study possible credits to bail them out.

Events over the past year have contributed to the problems.

Ticket sales, already sluggish with stadiums generally only 60 per cent filled, plummeted last September during the 15-day players' strike over terms and social security arrangements.

Only one-sixth the usual number of fans turned out to see the matches when amateurs and juniors were fielded in place of the professionals.

Also hitting into potential big-money gate sales has been the failure of all but one club to make an impact in the three European club competitions.

Real Betis and Atletico Madrid estimate they have lost more than 100 million pesetas (about \$575,000) and 60 million pesetas (about \$350,000) respectively in

Only Real Madrid, who have reached the UEFA Cup quarter finals, and league leaders Barcelona have a fighting chance of slashing their one billion peseta (\$5.7 million) deficits with capacity crowds.

Clubs say a partial solution would be higher fees from television and radio but their pleas have fallen on deaf ears to date.

And failure to reach agreement with Spain's state-run television company over the price it should pay to broadcast matches has meant no coverage this season.

Clubs also want a bigger share of profits from the state pools, blaming the current crisis on their low cut.

The only first division side which is not broke is lowly Osasuna of Pamplona, one of the few clubs that did not have to remodel its stadium for the World Cup.

Five seasons ago Osasuna returned to the first division with debts of 100 million pesetas (\$570,000). Now it is 300 million pesetas (\$1.7 million) in the black.

Part of Osasuna's financial success may be due to their refusal to sign expensive big-names and foreign players, a policy followed only by Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad of San Sebastian.

Flying Fignini wins 3rd downhill

MEGEVE, France (R) — Michela Fignini of Switzerland confirmed her status as the new superstar of women's skiing when she swept to her third consecutive World Cup downhill victory here Sunday.

The 18-year-old Olympic downhill champion, who has also won a giant slalom and a super-giant in her last five trips to the starting line, held off a strong French challenge to repeat her win here last year and open a 20-point lead in the overall cup standings.

Fignini's fifth win in 16 days confirmed her as an apparently unsailable contender for the world championship downhill in Bormio, Italy, on February 2.

"Flying Fignini" demonstrated her mastery with a virtually faultless run on a tough 2,110-metre course, her time of one minute 32.23 seconds giving her a narrow victory over Catherine Juttet and Claudine Emonet of France.

Despite good visibility, tight turns and a light covering of soft snow brought 12 of the 48 starters crashing into the safety nets. But the only serious casualty was Austria's Siegfried Winkler, who fell badly just a few metres from the finish and fractured a vertebra.

Despite becoming the first woman to win three successive downhill titles in five years, Fignini remained non-committal about her prospects at the World Championships.

"It's just one race and it all depends on who's on form on the day," she said, adding that any one of at least 15 girls could win.

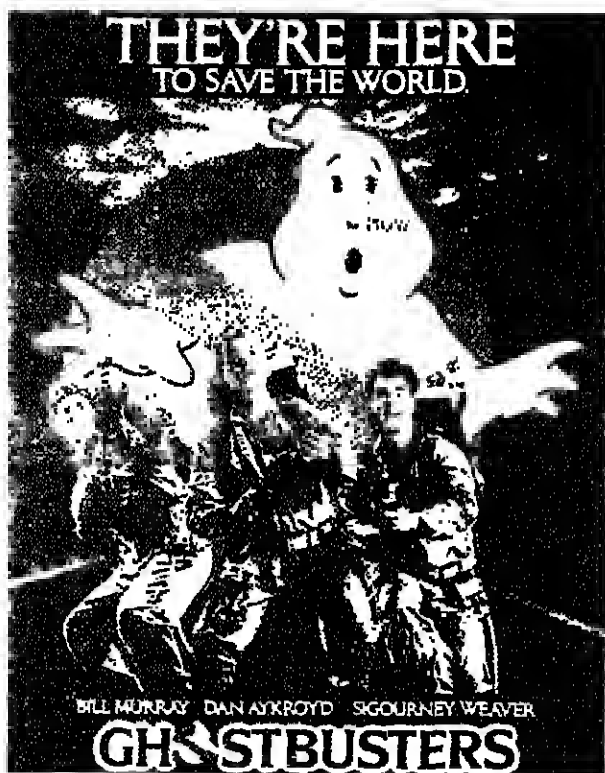
Three other French girls made it a day to remember for the host country by finishing in the top 15 Sunday. They attributed their success to the technical difficulty of the course, which they said suited them better than their rivals.

But Swiss domination of overall standings was ensured by Maria Wulliser's fifth place, which kept her third behind Fignini and team-mate Brigitte Oerli.

Their closest rival, Marina Niehl of West Germany, was suffering from a cold and did not race Sunday.

Fignini has a good chance of increasing her overall lead in a giant slalom at neighbouring St. Gervais Monday. She showed her all-round skills by winning the last giant slalom at Maribor Yugoslavia early this month, but she could be hard-pressed by Wulliser, currently second in the giant slalom standings.

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مكتبة من الاصل

Dollar faces crucial week on foreign exchanges

FRANKFURT (R) — International currency markets face a crucial week which is likely to test the newly-declared resolve of major central banks to join forces to curb the dollar's strength.

The United States signalled to its major allies at the end of last week that it is more willing to take part in concerted intervention to limit excessive surges of the dollar, marking a possible shift in the previous hands-off policy pursued by the Reagan administration.

But senior currency dealers questioned by Reuters remained highly sceptical and said the coming week could see traders and speculators alike pushing the dollar cautiously higher to test whether the U.S. will back its words with actions.

"It's a bit like waving a red flag at a bull," one senior dealer from a West German bank said.

After a two-day meeting in Washington last week, finance ministers of the U.S., West Germany, Japan, Britain and France — the Group of Five — issued a statement reaffirming their willingness to support weak currencies if they agreed the dollar was being bid up excessively.

The statement was essentially a reiteration of an accord drawn up at the 1983 Williamsburg summit of the seven leading industrial nations, signed also by Canada and Italy.

Economists said the U.S. has paid only lip service to this agreement, but Treasury Secretary Donald Regan seemed to fire a warning shot to the markets at the end of last week when he stated the reaffirmation gave the accord "added significance".

The dollar will begin this week hovering just below 12-year highs against the German mark, near a record high against the battered British pound and at a nine-year peak against the Swiss franc, driven by confidence in a booming U.S. economy.

Of the Group of Five central banks, only the Bundesbank has consistently thrown huge amounts of foreign exchange reserves into defence of the mark, although France and Japan have also favoured intervention. The German weekend press was highly sceptical of any new backing from the U.S.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper said: "Whether in the future the U.S. participates more in intervention and whether we can expect more frequent and massive dollar sales... remains an open question."

The powerful and fiercely independent Bundesbank has often found itself on a limb trying to defend the mark.

In what it described as a solo effort last September, when the dollar was surging past 3.17 marks, the German central bank poured a massive \$450 million into the market on one day, unleashing panic among speculators and driving the U.S. currency down nearly 15 pfennigs.

But over the longer-term this intervention, lacking anything more than token support from the U.S., was less effective and by last week the dollar had touched a 12-year high of 3.20 marks.

Mr. Rudolf Jung, senior dealer at Bankers' Trust here, said speculators may take fright after the Washington news and the dollar could fall. But only provided central banks show their hand.

"If they do not intervene and live up to the agreement, the dollar could rise to 3.25 to 3.30 marks," he said.

Some currency traders believe the New York Federal Reserve, which handles any U.S. intervention, may have intervened on Friday.

The dollar closed New York trading at the day's low of 3.1635 marks after a rapid decline from 3.1860 and amid strong speculation the Federal Reserve had been selling. But dealers had little concrete evidence and a U.S. treasury spokesman declined comment.

In addition to the Bundesbank, the central banks of Japan and France have maintained a fairly high profile with dollar sales during the currency's recent surge.

But economists said the blame for a recent increase in currency speculation, particularly against sterling, cannot be laid entirely at

Washington's door. Last week's run on the pound — stopped only by a government engineered 1½ per cent rise in U.K. interest rates — was also due to the reluctance of British authorities to intervene.

Monetary sources said European central banks, including the Bank of England, wanted to intervene 10 days ago when sterling was sliding rapidly to a record low of \$1.10. This was overruled by the British government which has also insisted on allowing the pound to find its own level.

The Economist, the British news magazine, wrote this week: "The (U.K.) government should be more ready to throw its reserves into the exchange markets occasionally — not to defend a particular rate, but simply to burn the fingers of speculators who have gone short of sterling in a thin market."

The pound had shown signs of steadying at around \$1.12 by the end of last week but dealers said Bank of England intervention would certainly make it less vulnerable to further attack by speculators.

Qatari Finance and Petroleum Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani said in a Doha interview Sunday he believed last year's agreement on production and pricing would be effective because OPEC members were aware the decisions had been made in their own interests.

Disagreements among members of OPEC at their Geneva meeting in December should not be exaggerated, he added.

The meeting agreed to a slight price cut for light crudes and an increase in the price of heavy crudes, although some members felt the changes were not sufficient.

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In the interview published in Al Rayyaf and the Gulf Times, Sheikh Abdul Aziz said: "Contacts have been made between OPEC and Britain and Norway regarding prices, but it is understood the two countries preferred to act on the

spot market basis and have no desire to coordinate with the organisation in this respect."

He said he believed the agreement on production and pricing among OPEC members would be effective because all members were fully aware the decisions had been made in their own interests.

Answering a question, he said he thought there was no need at present to cut OPEC's current production limit of 16 million barrels per day (b/d) to increase demand and raise prices.

But he added, without elaboration: "If surprises should arise and OPEC finds itself confronted with an organised plan by consumers to bring about a price cut at any cost, then I don't believe OPEC will hesitate to take any action necessary to safeguard the interests of its members."

The Qatari minister said any price cuts at present would lead to an international energy crisis worse than before, adding that he expected an increase in oil demand in the next few months.

"The recent cold spell which has hit most of Western Europe and the North American continent has pushed spot market prices upwards," he said.

This reflected a rise in demand likely to be met either by the consumers using up more of their stockpiles or by making new purchases, he said.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

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They add that Syria has also kept its inflation rate at a manageable 15 per cent annually, largely attributable to stiff government price and import controls.

Recent reduction of the official exchange rate and tighter controls on imports, have so far failed.

Residents say the effect instead has been to limit the availability of many consumer goods because, facing domestic shortages, the government has simply opted to do without rather than relax controls on imports.

New automobiles, for example, may be purchased only by government subscription during registrations conducted once every five years.

Prices for the cars are easily twice those of other Arab countries, and residents say once a new car is ordered, the waiting period usually averages another three to five years.

Used cars, meanwhile, have resale values averaging five to 10 times higher than outside Syria. One Damascus resident said he recently sold his 20-year-old British-made car for the equivalent of \$6,000.

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although officially forbidden. Some members of congress have suggested tighter import restrictions to curb a growing trade deficit, over \$2 billion in 1983.

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The next frame showed him naked, cowering behind the podium as a policeman confiscated the (imported) clothes off his back.

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"If the government can't get raw materials for the paper factory, then they just close it down. It means that we can't get things like toilet paper for several days," a Damascus housewife complained.

"There is a small but important and growing market for high-quality beef, particularly among institutional buyers such as hotels," the sources said.

Although U.S. producers cannot compete in price with traditional mass suppliers to the area, such as Australia, New Zealand and South America, the team will also "look for other products that might fit into the mass market," the sources said.

They added that the outlook that cheaper is better is giving way to demand for quality products.

"Buyers are becoming more demanding, and this is true throughout the Gulf, especially with more people travelling and their knowledge of the world expanding," they added.

The team coming to the Gulf is from the meat export research centre of the college of agriculture at Iowa State University.

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Syrian congress focuses on troubled economy

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's troubled economy has faced unusually critical public scrutiny this month as the ruling Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party debated economic problems during its first congress in five years.

The congress, which has met mainly behind closed doors since convening on Jan. 5, has devoted nearly half its time to the economy.

Economic affairs are expected to figure prominently in a report to be issued when the congress adjourns this week, according to Syrian press reports.

The semi-official daily Al Thawra said last Wednesday the congress studied measures to decentralise industrial expansion and channel more money into the neglected agricultural sector.

Western diplomats expect President Hafez Al Assad to announce changes soon among Syria's economic managers in response to growing discontent among Ba'ath Party leaders.

But they say widespread economic reforms are unlikely. President Assad is more likely to urge stricter adherence to socialist economic models introduced when the Ba'ath Party took control in 1963, they add.

Nor are there likely to be any reductions in the nation's defence spending, which took up more than 60 per cent of the total 1984 budget, according to the official statistical index.

After a three-day preparatory session last month, the party central committee issued a statement noting "gaps, negative aspects and difficulties" in the economy and recommending measures to "strengthen the economic base, promote production and modernise agriculture."

Diplomatic analysts say such language was unusually frank in a nation known for keeping its domestic problems out of the public forum. They say it could indicate the severity of Syria's economic ills.

Diplomats and residents say, however, the economic picture is

far from gloomy. They note a recent discovery of high-quality crude oil in Syria's northeast region believed to be large enough to give the country a competitive position as a net oil exporter.

They add that Syria has also kept its inflation rate at a manageable 15 per cent annually, largely attributable to stiff government price and import controls.

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Japan is taking a gamble in staging Expo '85

TOKYO: The body of New Orleans' bankrupt Expo '84 may not yet be cold, but already the countdown has begun to the opening next spring of the 1985 world's fair in Tsukuba, Japan.

Out of a 250-acre sea of mud 35 miles north-east of Tokyo a futuristic mini-city of steel and glass, computers and robots, screen images and space rides is beginning to emerge.

Japan is investing ¥570 billion (\$2.3 billion) in the venture, much of which will never be recouped. The government will regard the money as well spent, however, if the exposition succeeds in injecting new life into Tsukuba science city, an artificial town designed to be the scientific capital of Japan, but which has yet to live up to the planners' dreams.

Tsukuba Expo '85 will be essentially a science fair, but aims to present technology with a human face.

It will open on March 17 for six months and the organisers are hoping for 20 million visitors with, perhaps, 5 per cent of them coming from overseas.

Among the attractions will be Sony's Jumbotronic, the world's largest television set with a screen the size of four tennis courts; the Fuyo robot theatre, where visitors will be invited to play games with the robots; a giant tomato tree bearing about 10,000 tomatoes, which will be grown by guiding sunlight into its pavilion through optical fibres; and the world's largest ferris wheel, taking passengers to the height of a 25-storey building.

The stated aim of Expo '85 is to allow different nations to share the science and technology associated with their different cultures and to examine how scientific progress can be adapted to the environment and enrich people's lives.

Its origins, however, lie in a more practical question: How to revitalise Tsukuba Science City, a new town in a no-man's-land that has never really taken off.

Tsukuba was born in 1963 out of Japan's fears that its industrial and technological successes could fizzle out unless more was put into basic research. "High on imitation, low on innovation" was the common criticism of Japan and the government wanted to counter it.

The result, Tsukuba Science City, was an attempt to gather the country's top researchers together in an atmosphere where creative ideas might blossom, and simultaneously to promote decentralisation from overcrowded Tokyo.

The government hopes siding Expo '85 at Tsukuba will give the city the shot in the arm it so badly needs.

One of the biggest obstacles to the development of Tsukuba — and one of the main difficulties which the Expo organisers have to face — is the city's inaccessibility. The nearest railway station is more than half-an-hour's drive away and up till now there has been no direct road link with Tokyo.

To cope with the expected influx of visitors to the fair a temporary railway station 6 miles from Tsukuba is under construction, and fleets of buses will connect it with the Expo site. The Tokyo expressway is due to open by March.

The other main difficulty faced by the organisers is the lack of accommodation. They say that Expo visitors will need three days to see everything properly.

However, by next spring there will still be only 22,000 hotel or guest house beds within 20 miles of Tsukuba and a large proportion of these will be taken up by site personnel.

As one observer put it, the two biggest problems which Tsukuba faces are first, that it won't attract enough people to the Expo, and second, that it will — Financial Times news feature.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"They make disposable diapers, disposable dishes... when are they going to invent disposable windows?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOLEH
NISOB
CAMEZE
URBBUS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIEF ALIAS MANAGE PRIMER

Answer: The MARINES were "arranged" as a study group — "SEMINAR"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



OPEC experts discuss oil price differentials in Riyadh

DOHA (R) — Qatar's oil minister said he was sure the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would master the problem of oil price differentials as OPEC experts gathered in Riyadh for a meeting Sunday to discuss the issue.

The Riyadh meeting, chaired by Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, is due also to be attended by delegates from Kuwait, Qatar, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Nigeria.

Soviets detect 'positive' U.S. approach in arms control talks

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The United States, in public and private statements, has shown a "positive" approach toward new arms control talks, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Sunday.

Since Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz agreed on a framework for new arms control talks in Geneva earlier this month, the Soviet press and Mr. Gromyko have stressed that an important beginning was made but that the negotiations will be difficult.

Mr. Gromyko said a week ago in a two-hour television interview with Soviet journalists that the Soviet Union demands that Washington stick to the spirit of the Geneva framework agreement, in particular on the issue of preventing the militarisation of space.

Mr. Gromyko said Mr. Shultz had written him after the Geneva talks to assure him of U.S. intentions to abide by the agreement.

"If we take the very fact of the Geneva meeting and the joint statement channels, the high evaluation of the Geneva accords by the White House and the U.S. State Department, it looks like a positive aspect has appeared over the approach to the talks," Pravda said Sunday.

However, Pravda said this was largely because of pressure from public groups and U.S. allies to improve relations with the Soviet Union. Pravda also said there is growing opposition to the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, or

so-called "Star Wars" space weapons research programme, but added that proponents of it have not given up their stand.

Pravda said the escalating arms race had disastrous effects on the American economy at the expense of social programmes.

"An important, but only first step, was made in Geneva," Pravda concluded. "And one cannot permit that they follow the steps in the directly opposite direction. Peace-loving forces throughout the world are waging the struggle to see that the Geneva agreements will be realised fully and as soon as possible."

"Today, there is still an opportunity to reach an agreement about the nonmilitarisation of space and to stop the arms race on earth and prevent the decline of mankind to the nuclear abyss. Tomorrow might be too late."

Meanwhile U.S. military analysts say two of President Reagan's main arms programmes currently facing strong opposition in Congress could be saved from defeat by the arms control talks with the Soviet Union.

With the talks set to resume soon after a year-long freeze, Congress, increasingly reluctant to continue rubber-stamping Mr. Reagan's massive military bud-

get, is being told that dropping the MX and Star Wars programmes would play into Soviet hands.

Congressional sources said production of the 10-warhead MX intercontinental missile was in danger of being scrapped this year.

In addition, billions of dollars were likely to be stripped from research for the space-based, anti-missile system known as Star Wars, or the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Congressional opponents say there is no need to develop both the MX and the small, mobile, single-warhead, Midgetman missile. They contend that the Star Wars idea is probably technically impossible.

They also cite a need to cut military spending at a time of record federal budget deficits.

Secretary of State George Shultz said last week that with talks starting soon — officials say it may be as early as March — it was vital that both programmes go ahead.

"If the Soviets can get what they want out of us without giving up anything in return, they would love it," he told members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Mr. Shultz said arms programmes should be modified as a result of arms control agreements and not before talks begin.

The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Dante Fascell, said after Mr.

Shultz's appearance: "I think the secretary's points will be very persuasive."

An aide to Mr. Fascell said the Florida Democrat was not dropping his own opposition to the MX but the position of the House as a whole now may be up in the air.

However Les Aspin, the new chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and a key supporter of the MX last year as a bargaining chip in the arms talks, has raised questions about his continued backing for the weapon's development.

The Wisconsin Democrat said last week that perhaps the MX should be scrapped and Star Wars used as a bargaining chip instead. But he stopped short of abandoning the missile.

Star Wars research, for which the administration wants \$26 billion over five years, is getting a close look.

Critics say such a scheme to use lasers and other still undeveloped means to destroy incoming missiles will never be able to protect the entire U.S. population.

And if it did, they add, it would prompt the Soviet Union to build their own space defence and touch off a new arms race.

Despite these questions, congressmen will be under heavy pressure in coming weeks to keep funding both weapons systems.

And Congress has yet to cancel a major weapons programme backed by a president.



GAS DISASTER: Firefighters search for victims in the debris of six houses in central Dutch town of Woerden Sunday morning, after these houses were destroyed completely by a heavy gas explosion (AP wirephoto)

NATO alarmed by bombing wave

BRUSSELS (R) — A mounting campaign of bombings against Western military targets in Belgium has alarmed NATO officials, and some are complaining about the seemingly slow response of the Belgian authorities.

The Fighting Communist Cells (CCC), believed to be linked to West Germany's Red Army Faction (RAF) and the French extremist group Action Directe, last week carried out their 13th attack since October, detonating a car bomb outside a U.S. army social centre in Brussels.

In a communiqué, the group said it now aimed to kill or maim "the Yankee military and their accomplices". NATO officials said this appeared to be a grave new threat.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Belgian government reaction appeared min-

imal and the threat did not seem to be receiving sufficiently urgent attention.

No senior Belgian official visited the scene of the latest bombing and the government said nothing about it.

"If they care about these attacks, they're certainly making no particular effort to show it," a senior NATO official said.

The response was equally low-key last month when the CCC set off six bombs along the NATO fuel pipeline across Belgium.

Security at NATO offices has been stepped up and Belgian police are now guarding more NATO-related buildings, but there are still some gaps.

For example, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens' residence appeared to be totally unguarded last week when he gave a news con-

ference. Reporters were able to enter the building and walk to the conference room unchecked.

The CCC bombed Mr. Martens' private office in his parliamentary constituency in Ghent last October.

Belgian officials declined comment on their investigations, saying secrecy was vital to the hunt for the CCC.

But a NATO official concerned with the case commented: "The secrecy conceals the fact that they've gotten nowhere."

Security experts said the CCC were becoming increasingly bold and technically competent.

The pipeline attacks showed they could mount a coordinated action in several places and the latest bombing was the first involving a device detonated by remote control, they said.

'Battlestar Discovery' set for launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A new era in the militarisation of space begins Wednesday when a manned spaceship for the first time carries a military spy satellite on a classified mission being dubbed "the flight of battlestar Discovery."

The payload, sources report, is an advanced intelligence-gathering satellite able to monitor Soviet missile tests and listen in on radio, radio-telephone and satellite communications. From 35,881 kilometre high stationary orbit south of the Soviet Union, it will be able to eavesdrop on much of Europe and Asia.

The Pentagon calls it Sigint, for signal intelligence.

Even though information about the payload has leaked out, the Defence Department is trying to keep a secretly lid over much of the mission. To make it more difficult for Russian trackers sitting offshore to monitor the launch, officials will say only that liftoff of space shuttle Discovery will occur between 1:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. (1715 and 2015 GMT).

NASA said Saturday the Pentagon is considering opening up the countdown to the news media when it reaches nine minutes before intended liftoff, and a decision is expected Monday.

The agency also said the astronauts who will fly the mission will arrive here at 5 p.m. Sunday from their training base in Houston to begin final flight preparations and that the countdown will start at 4 a.m. (0900 GMT) Monday.

Reporters were denied the usual pre-launch interviews and news conference with the five-man crew, and they will not be able to monitor space-to-ground communications.

After liftoff, the air force will release a statement every eight hours on progress of the flight.

Navy Capt. Thomas Mattingly, veteran of an earlier shuttle flight, will command the 15th shuttle mission.

His crewmates, all rookies and all military officers, are air force Lt. Col. Loren Shriver, Marine Lt. Col. James Buchli and Air Force

Major Ellison Onizuka and Gary Payton.

The United States and Soviet Union have orbited electronic intelligence-gathering satellites like these for years with rockets. But this one is being launched by a manned spaceship, and NASA and the Pentagon are bracing for a propaganda barrage from the Soviets.

While NASA and commercial payloads will continue to dominate the shuttle cargo manifests, the Defence Department will fly an increasing number of military missions with the reusable spaceship. The air force is building its own shuttle launch base in California, with Discovery transferring there next September for permanent assignment.

The Soviets and the Americans have launched hundreds of satellites since the early 1960s for such military purposes as communications, reconnaissance, missile detection, navigation, electronic interception and weather forecasting.

Pakistan bans opposition meeting

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's military government has banned further meetings of the main opposition alliance after it decided Saturday to boycott general elections next month which political parties are barred from contesting.

The government issued the ban order after the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) reaffirmed an earlier decision not to take part in the elections.

It says any polls must be held under the suspended 1973 constitution and the rules in force before the military government took power in July 1977.

The government released two opposition politicians and removed travel bans on several others to enable them to attend a two-day meeting of the MRD central

committee in the town of Abbottabad. It decided to meet again on Tuesday in Lahore.

But a government statement Saturday night said this was "only a one-time permission and no further meeting of this nature is being allowed."

MRD convenor Malik Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq told Reuters it would go ahead with Tuesday's meeting despite the ban, which he said showed the government was "jittery and unsteady."

He said military ruler Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq had done it to favour by letting the MRD leaders meet. "If he had not done that he would have exposed himself as he is exposed now by the new order," he said. "This reflects his intentions and the type of elections they are going to hold."

Gen. Zia said on Jan. 12 that political parties he banned in 1979 would be barred from the elections for the National Assembly on Feb. 25 and for four provincial assemblies three days later.

But last week he lifted electoral bans for many officials and activists of opposition parties.

The MRD told members of its parties that they would be expelled if they took part in the elections, which it described as a hoax.

"It is unfortunate that the attitude of some participants continues to be rigid, totally unreasonable and inflexible," the government statement said of the MRD meeting.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Raja Zafarullah Haq accused the MRD of "lack of understanding and political ineptitude."

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political parties he banned in 1979 would be barred from the elections for the National Assembly on Feb. 25 and for four provincial assemblies three days later.

But last week he lifted electoral bans for many officials and activists of opposition parties.

The MRD told members of its parties that they would be expelled if they took part in the elections, which it described as a hoax.

"It is unfortunate that the attitude of some participants continues to be rigid, totally unreasonable and inflexible," the government statement said of the MRD meeting.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Raja Zafarullah Haq accused the MRD of "lack of understanding and political ineptitude."

But as Nigel approached Fiji, it curved up and passed across the north east part of Viti Levu, Fiji's meteorological service said Nigel was smaller and less intense than expected, with winds of about 148 kilometres per hour, gusting to 203 kph.

McFarlane secretly visits C. America

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's National Security Adviser, Robert McFarlane, made a secret five-nation tour of Central America just before Mr. Reagan was to be sworn in for a second term, a White House spokesman has disclosed, Deputy White House Press Secretary Robert Sims told reporters at a pre-inaugural gala that Mr. McFarlane made the trip to talk to the heads of state of the five nations and reaffirm "the president's policy for the coming months" as the second term begins.

Mr. Sims said Mr. McFarlane spoke to officials in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama and Guatemala.

But the spokesman refused to disclose any specifics of what was discussed and said he was not at liberty to say whether any military aid or assistance to the Contras in Nicaragua was a topic of the talks. The Reagan administration backs rebels trying to overthrow the leftist government of that nation.

Asked why Mr. McFarlane's trip, made at the request of Mr. Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, was kept secret, Mr. Sims said, "we never discussed his travels."

Asked if the national security adviser had made other trips like the one to Central America, Mr. Sims said, "none that we've com-

mented on." Mr. Sims said Mr. McFarlane's trip was not directly connected to the U.S. suspension of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua or the decision to boycott future proceedings of the world court on a Nicaraguan complaint that the United States has violated international law by mining that nation's harbours. Both were announced Friday.

Mr. Sims said Mr. McFarlane left Washington Thursday and returned early Saturday in time to have lunch with Mr. Reagan at a party marking the last day of the president's first term. But the spokesman said he did not know whether Mr. McFarlane was able to report on his visit.

Parti Quebecois shelves independence issue

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec's ruling Parti Quebecois, which came to power nine years ago vowing to found a breakaway French-speaking state in the Canadian province, decided to shelve the independence issue at the next provincial election.

A crucial party convention decided by a two-to-one majority to back Premier Rene Levesque, who had insisted that the election, due later this year, should be fought on the economy and not statehood.

Mr. Levesque's stance provoked a mutiny late last year by seven hardline separatist ministers who quit his cabinet.

After Saturday's vote the radical delegates, led by former Social Affairs Minister Camille Laurin, walked out in protest from the convention.

The hardliners left the hall singing the French National anthem "La Marseillaise" and Mr. Laurin said he had the support of almost 500 of the 1,500 convention delegates.

The Parti Quebecois' popularity plummeted during the recent recession and an opinion poll Saturday showed only 19 per cent of Quebecers now backed the idea of independence.

Mr. Levesque has argued that independence should be viewed as an insurance policy for the Parti Quebecois and not as its immediate political goal.

He has also adopted a more conciliatory approach to the federal government since Prime Minister Brian Mulroney led his Conservative Party to a landslide victory in last September's Canadian national election.

Mr. Mulroney warmly welcomed the poll showing that the popularity of the separatist cause was waning in Quebec.

"I think it's an acknowledgment of the fact that we are a strong Quebecer and believe strongly in Canada as well," he told reporters Friday.

Tamil guerrillas kill 33 in train attack

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — At least 33 people, including 22 soldiers, were killed Saturday night when Tamil guerrillas blew up a Colombo-bound train about 300 kilometres north of the capital, officials said here Sunday.

A senior government spokesman who declined to be identified confirmed the death toll was 33 and said it may run higher because of serious injuries sustained by other passengers in the blast which ripped through 11 carriages of the train.

The attack took place between the stations of Mankulam and Murukandi.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the 22 military deaths marked the highest casualty figure suf-

fered by the army in a single incident since the guerrillas, labelled as terrorists by the Colombo government, escalating their activities several months ago.

Police said 44 injured in the blast, including three policemen, were hospitalised at Anuradhapura, 206 kilometres north of Colombo. They said seven of the dead were at the local government hospital.

First reports reaching Colombo said 90 soldiers had boarded the train at Kilinochchi, 60 kilometres south of Jaffna, the capital of the troubled northern province where Tamil guerrillas are seeking to establish an independent state. There have been several guerrilla acts of sabotage on the tracks

with 10 men and a quantity of explosives, ammunition, three outboard motors and 10 kilograms of marijuana on board.

One unconfirmed report said the guerrillas appeared to have tipped off Tamil civilians who were also due to board at Kilinochchi of the impending attack, because many stayed off the train.

Police said 25 of the injured being treated at Anuradhapura were soldiers and 16, including a Buddhist monk, were civilians. The other three were police officers.

Police said the Mankulam station master raised an alarm after hearing a blast and seeing that the train failed to arrive on schedule.

As the authorities were organising a team to check what had happened, the engine of the damaged train drawing two carriages that had escaped the attack limped into Mankulam.

Germany's smog alert ends

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Police removed all street barriers from the cities of the Ruhr Valley Sunday after health officials ended a smog alert as changing weather reduced pollution in West Germany's industrial heartland.

The alert, imposed by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia on Thursday, was lifted after a fall in levels of sulphur dioxide and other pollutants in the air.

Weather forecasters predicted that a front of low pressure moving in from the Atlantic would disperse the stagnant air.

Air-quality monitoring stations reported no reduction overnight in pollution levels. They still hovered above the Stage Two alert threshold, the level at which rush-hour traffic is restricted.

Freezing, windless weather and a temperature inversion trapped polluted air, causing a dramatic rise in atmospheric sulphur dioxide levels.

Pharmacies reported big sales of surgical face masks and eye and nose medications, extra police manned "smog" road barriers used for the first time in West Germany, and public transport staff worked overtime.

Second hurricane hits Fiji's largest island, 22 die

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — The second hurricane in a week crossed Fiji's largest island, Viti Levu, on Sunday and the death toll from the two is 22, with more than 3,000 people homeless, the government said.

About 7,500 homes were damaged, and hundreds of people injured in the hurricanes that hit Thursday and Saturday night, according to the government's emergency organisation.

As hurricane Nigel made its way across the 6,440-square-kilometre Viti Levu on Sunday, about 1,000 people took shelter in the Nadi International Airport's passenger terminal.

Many were Australian, New Zealand, American and Canadian tourists stranded since the first hurricane closed the airport.

Details of damage to hotels in western Viti Levu, the main tou-

rist area, were not available due to disrupted telecommunications. But at least three hotels near the airport were reported to have had varying degrees of damage.

It was not until Nigel was clear of Fiji on Sunday morning, moving south east and weakening to gale force, that government ships could begin leaving Suva to assess damage in outer islands of the 320-island group. The emergency Services Organisation said it would be several days before the full extent of damage and casualties was known.

But damage was believed to be heaviest in western Viti Levu, centred at Lautoka. The airport, 24 kilometres south of Suva, reopened to international traffic Sunday, but only for daytime flights, due to damage to the night landing equipment.

The Fiji Electricity Authority estimates that it could take one to two weeks to restore power to parts of Viti Levu that were blacked out, including most of the capital, Suva.

The weather service said a third hurricane, Odette, was drifting and weakening to the west on Sunday and was no longer considered to be a threat to the Fiji island group.

A spokesman for the Fiji Insurance Association, Tony Christian, said that as of Sunday, insurance companies had received claims for \$42 million in damage to housing and other structures.

Rashed Ali, chief executive of the Fiji Sugar Corp., said about \$10.5 million worth of damage had been done to its sugar mills, staff housing and stocks of fertiliser and raw sugar. He said it was doubtful that the three damaged mills would be able to reopen

to crush the remaining 100,000 tons of cane left standing from the 1984 harvest of more than 4 million tons.

And, he said, the 1985 harvest, estimated at about 4.3 million tons, might be reduced by 5 to 10 per cent.

Hurricane Eric hit Viti Levu and smaller islands to the south and east on Thursday night. It was followed Saturday night, from the same direction, by hurricane Nigel, which had been expected to pass 160 kilometres south of Viti Levu.

But as Nigel approached Fiji, it curved up and passed across the north east part of Viti Levu, Fiji's meteorological service said Nigel was smaller and less intense than expected, with winds of about 148 kilometres per hour, gusting to 203 kph.

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Scottish landowner seeks lion dung

LONDON (R) — A British landowner testing lion dung to see if it will deter red deer from grazing on valuable land has run into a supply problem. Lion dung is a rare commodity in Britain and Lord Burton, who farms the Droghda estate at Inverness in Scotland, has now been offered supplies of tiger dung by a millionaire zoo owner. The idea of using the scent of lion dung to scare away animals is not new. The Scottish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is watching Lord Burton's experiment, with interest. Edinburgh and Basildon zoos have promised regular supplies but their lions produce only a few bucketsful a day, according to the observer newspaper.

Man masquerading as film star seduces 85 women

PEKING (R) — A smooth-talking Shanghai food factory worker seduced at least 85 women by pretending to be a film star, according to a Chinese newspaper. Peng Hongjian told women he was a member of the China Youth Theatre Group who had starred in several films, the Shanghai Liberation daily said. "He seduced young women in and outside cinemas, at railway stations and at the docks," it said. In reality, Peng was a worker at Shanghai's Number Five Muslim Food Factory who insulted, assaulted and raped his victims, the newspaper said. It did not say whether the man had yet been tried.

26 escape in Filipino jail break

BACOLOD, Philippines (R) — Twenty-eight prisoners escaped from a central Philippines jail after sawing their way through cell bars during a power blackout, police reported. They said one man was captured and one surrendered but the others, including murderers, robbers and suspects awaiting trial, were still at large. Police said the men tied towels together to reach the ground from their cells in the Bacolod City Jail. The blackout was the latest of a series to hit Negros Occidental province during the past few weeks.

Skier makes a pile in nude streak

LONDON (R) — Factory-worker Stuart Dancer's barefaced cheek has earned him a pile of free carpets in deep-freeze Britain. That was the prize offered by a snowbound shop in the English midlands town of Brackley — to the first customer to arrive in the nude on skis. Men cheered and women shoppers looked startled as Dancer stripped off for a 100 metre ski dash. The shop said: "We never thought anyone would take us up on the offer. We will measure up his house over the weekend."

Town says goodbye to its alligator

PONCHATOULA, Louisiana (AP) — People danced and sang, a jazz band played and politicians gave flowery eulogies as this town staged a New Orleans-style funeral for one of its best known residents — a 21-year-old alligator named Ole Hardhide. The alligator died Wednesday night after spending 13 years in a cage in the centre of town. Hundreds of mourners, some in tuxedos, brandished colourful umbrellas as they followed a horse-drawn cart that carried the 407 kilogramme alligator's remains in a closed, custom-made green casket. The weekly Ponchatoula Times had carried a front-page column under the alligator's byline regularly for years, city council member Newman Fitzmorris noted during the ceremonies.

Status of Japanese women has improved

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese say the status of women has improved "remarkably" in the past 10 years, but they wouldn't want to have a female fire chief or take an international flight piloted by a woman, according to a survey by the prime minister's office reported Sunday. Kyodo News Service reported in part the results of the government questionnaire of 550 people across the country. The return rate was 79 per cent. But Kyodo did not give a breakdown of how many answers were from women and men.